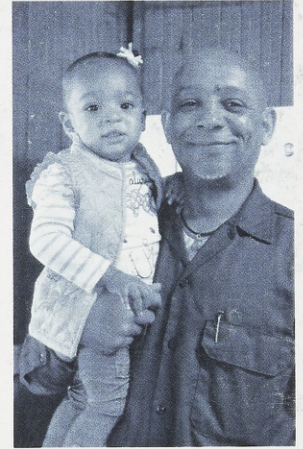


I MUST NOT FORGET

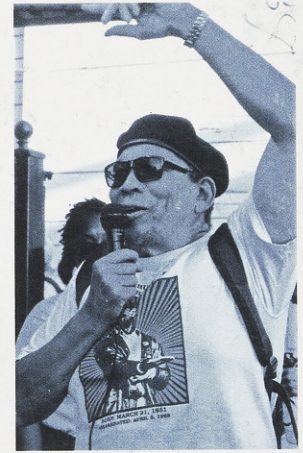
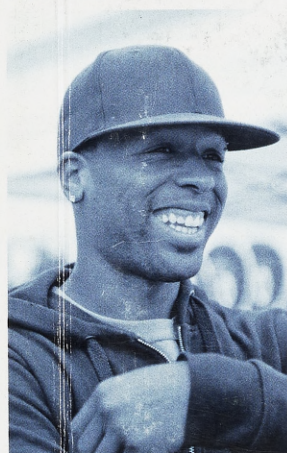
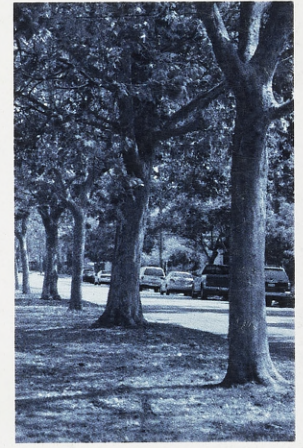
Eugene Lasartemay



Bay historians



Commons archive
COMMONS ARCHIVE
COMMONS ARCHIVE
Commons Archive
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Commons archive
COMMONS ARCHIVE



COMMONS ARCHIVE

PHOTO

NEIGHBORHOOD
ACTIVISTS

Family photo
Lasarte
mother, one of
founders of
Bay Negro
Society

1947

NEIGHBORHOOD
ACTIVIST

The Lasarte
founders of
Bay Negro
Society, O
Tribune

1981

Courtesy of
American M
Library at O

FARMER'S
MARKET

Phat Beet
Justice Ma
CSA, Tove
market ma

2014

Photo by Pa

PHOTO KEY (IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT)

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST Family photo of Ruth Lasartemay with mother, one of the founders of the East Bay Negro Historical Society 1947

PHOTO KEY (IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT)

<p>NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST</p> <p>Family photo of Ruth Lasterberry with mother, one of the founders of the East Bay Negro Historical Society</p> <p>1941</p> <p>Courtesy Evelyn Williams</p> <p>Historical Society</p>	<p>NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVISTS</p> <p>The Lasterberrys, founders of the East Bay Negro Historical Society, Oakland</p> <p>1981</p> <p>Courtesy Evelyn Williams</p> <p>African American Museum & Library of Oakland</p> <p>Photo by Leah Green</p>	<p>FARMERS' MARKET</p> <p>Post Brest Food Justice Market & CSA, Joyce Hill, market manager</p> <p>2014</p> <p>Photo by Pamela Palmer</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>The Lasterberrys' East Bay Negro Historical Society Museum at 4219 Grove Street (now MLK Jr Way)</p> <p>1970</p> <p>Courtesy African American Museum & Library of Oakland</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>Signage from the Black Panther self-guided walking tour, 5632 Martin Luther King Jr Way, now the All Good Bakery</p> <p>2015</p>	<p>NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS</p> <p>Golden Gate business district on San Pablo Avenue circa 1980</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Courtesy Evelyn Williams</p> <p>Historical Society</p>	<p>LONG-TIME NEIGHBOR</p> <p>Joanne Dickerson, Harber, whose parents were among the first African Americans in the Golden Gate (1940s)</p> <p>2015</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>Remnants of the former Alameda County Jail, 1000 Alameda Avenue</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Remnants of the former Alameda County Jail, 1000 Alameda Avenue</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>Charles Klinkner real estate 'headquarters' in the town of Golden Gate 1885</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Courtesy Evelyn Williams</p> <p>Historical Society</p>	<p>NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS</p> <p>Post Brest Food Justice Market & CSA, Joyce Hill, market manager</p> <p>2014</p> <p>Photo by Pamela Palmer</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>The Lasterberrys' East Bay Negro Historical Society Museum at 4219 Grove Street (now MLK Jr Way)</p> <p>1970</p> <p>Courtesy African American Museum & Library of Oakland</p>	<p>FARMERS' MARKET</p> <p>Post Brest Food Justice Market & CSA, Joyce Hill, market manager</p> <p>2014</p> <p>Photo by Pamela Palmer</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>The Lasterberrys' East Bay Negro Historical Society Museum at 4219 Grove Street (now MLK Jr Way)</p> <p>1970</p> <p>Courtesy African American Museum & Library of Oakland</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>Signage from the Black Panther self-guided walking tour, 5632 Martin Luther King Jr Way, now the All Good Bakery</p> <p>2015</p>	<p>NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS</p> <p>Golden Gate business district on San Pablo Avenue circa 1980</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Courtesy Evelyn Williams</p> <p>Historical Society</p>	<p>LONG-TIME NEIGHBOR</p> <p>Joanne Dickerson, Harber, whose parents were among the first African Americans in the Golden Gate (1940s)</p> <p>2015</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>Remnants of the former Alameda County Jail, 1000 Alameda Avenue</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Remnants of the former Alameda County Jail, 1000 Alameda Avenue</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p> <p>Charles Klinkner real estate 'headquarters' in the town of Golden Gate 1885</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Courtesy Evelyn Williams</p> <p>Historical Society</p>	<p>NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS</p> <p>Post Brest Food Justice Market & CSA, Joyce Hill, market manager</p> <p>2014</p> <p>Photo by Pamela Palmer</p>
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NEGRO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

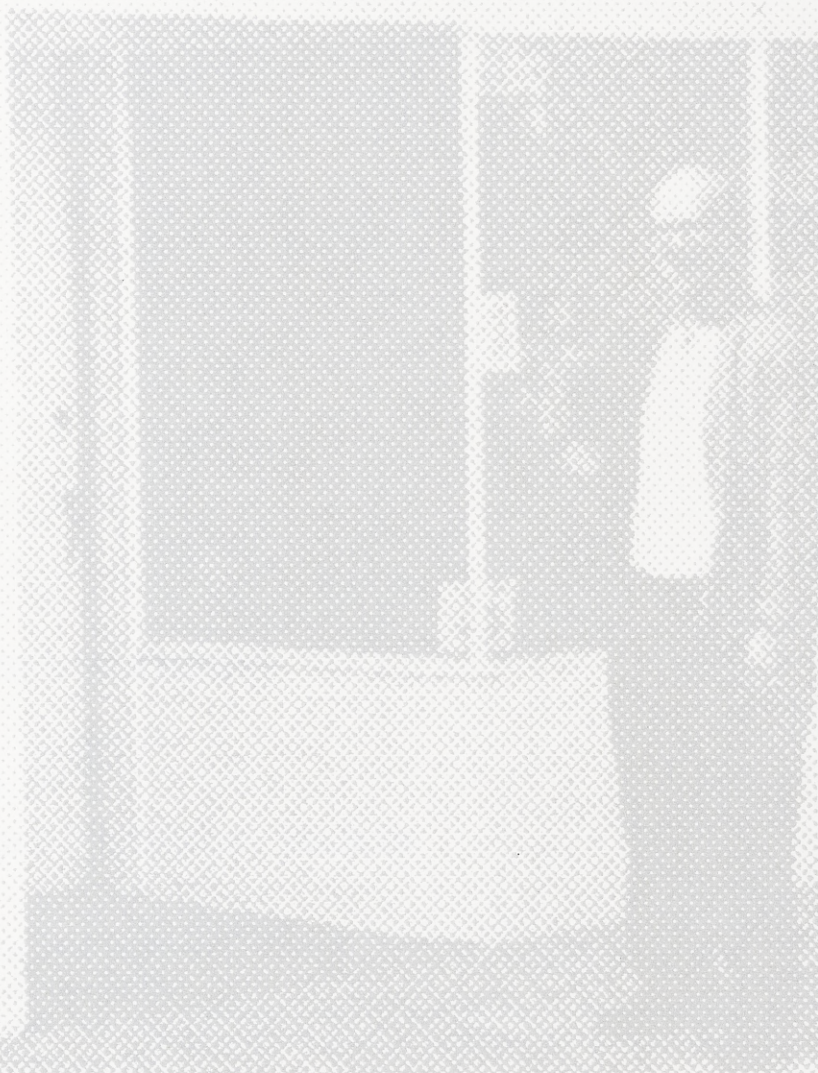
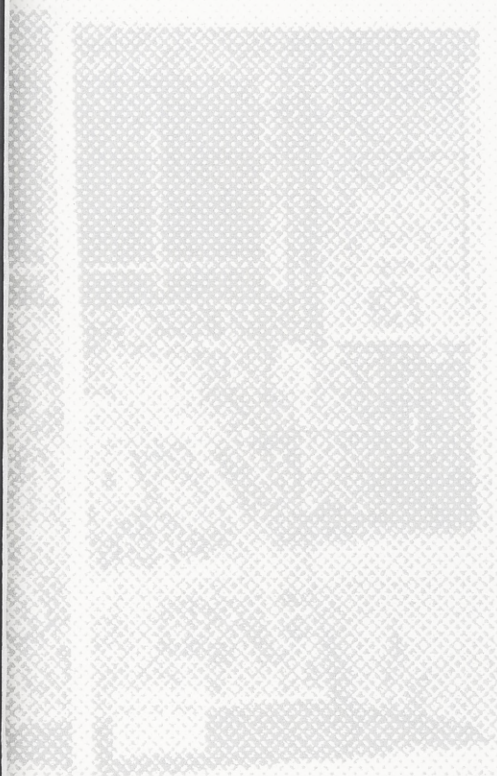


PHOTO PREVIOUS PAGE

The Lasartemays' East Bay Negro Historical Society
Museum at 4519 Grove Street, (now MLK Jr. Way), 1976

Courtesy African American Museum & Library at Oakland

I MUST NOT FORGET

Eugene Lasartemay

1981

East Bay Negro Historical Society

Oakland Public Library

Golden Gate Branch

5606 San Pablo Avenue

Oakland, CA

COMMONS ARCHIVE

Collaborators

marksearch

Golden Gate Branch Library

Oakland Public Library

Oakland Public Library's Oakland History Room

African American Museum & Library at Oakland

Friends of the Golden Gate Library

Golden Gate Community Association

PLACE for Sustainable Living

Golden Gate Recreation Center

Emeryville Center of Community Life

Emeryville Historical Society

Emeryville Senior Center

North Oakland Senior Center

Kala Art Institute

Commons Archive

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Sue Mark gratefully acknowledges permission from the African American Museum & Library at Oakland Collections to reprint selections from the *Lasartemay Family Papers MS 95*.

Commons Archive is a project initiated by cultural researcher Sue Mark in collaboration with stakeholders in the Golden Gate Branch Library service area (North Oakland, South Berkeley, Emeryville).

The views expressed by individuals or in materials developed as part of Commons Archive are representative of the project's collective conception and production and are not necessarily the views of the Oakland Public Library or any other individual involved.

INTRODUCTION

"Who are we? What is this place? Who does it belong to?"

"Sharing local history brings us closer together as things change."

–Golden Gate neighbors

Whose stories are preserved and whose are lost? This large question is at the heart of Commons Archive, a neighborhood memory bank organized by cultural researcher Sue Mark at North Oakland's Golden Gate Branch Library. Initiated in 2016 in response to profound demographic shifts impacting this community, Commons Archive includes materials, special programs and installations throughout the library. The archive's unconventional format highlights recollections that, if undocumented, will disappear.

Commons Archive honors neighbors' multiple roles as participants, narrators and creators of the many histories of this dynamically changing area. This neighborhood's lifecycle has moved at varying rates: over the past five years, this wedge of North Oakland, South Berkeley and Emeryville has experienced profound shifts, sparking debates among residents about local identity.

As a longstanding community anchor, the Golden Gate Branch Library bears witness to the neighborhood's changes. This branch has served hundreds of thousands of neighbors since opening its doors on December 15, 1918. From youth clubs to Diwali festivals, garden shows to film screenings, the library strives to reflect the diversity of the neighborhood.

Commons Archive enriches this goal by holding in place the stories of those who have lived here and providing access to these stories for years to come. As neighbors continue to flow through the community, the archive will stand to preserve these memories.

The Golden Gate Library Local Collection presents some materials that were, up until now, stored in basements, locked file cabinets and forgotten boxes. These newsletters, journals, unpublished papers, articles, scrapbooks and reports describe a neighborhood that has been and will continue to be supported by a vital network of local organizations. The Local

Collection brings together narratives of the dedicated efforts of neighbors and community-based organizations.

Commons Archive not only peels back the neighborhood's layers but also stretches towards the future. We hope that these materials will become an invaluable resource for neighbors and researchers. We invite you to add to this growing pool of information by commenting on these materials, sharing your experiences in the community and inviting your neighbor to join the process.

Sue Mark

Cultural Researcher
marksearch

Erin Sanders

Manager
Golden Gate Branch Library

2019

PREFACE

I MUST NOT FORGET

"My grandfather told me he didn't know that being a black man was a problem until he moved to San Francisco."

—Mark Lasartemay

Mark Lasartemay was his grandparents' caretaker in their later lives. Mark was closer to his grandfather than to his own parents and learned the ways of the world from him. Their conversations yielded aphorisms that became enduring beacons for Mark: "Say hello to everyone to dispel tension," "Treat others how they expect you to treat them," "Never ever be late," and "Above all, keep your word and your integrity." Mark lovingly lauded his grandfather Eugene Lasartemay as "one of the smartest and most dedicated men I have known in my entire life."

Born and raised in Kauai, Hawaii, Eugene Lasartemay came to California in the 1920s and began a career as an automobile painter. Not entirely satisfied with this work, he jumped at the opportunity to work on a ship headed for Panama. For more than a decade, Lasartemay traveled the seas, visiting global ports of call. In 1932, Lasartemay became the first black licensed marine engineer to sail from the port of San Francisco. Poignant journals, filled with postcards and his own black-and-white photos, reveal Lasartemay's passion for documentation.

In 1946, Eugene Lasartemay, along with his wife and several other members of their Beth Eden Baptist Church community, began to collect oral histories, photos and ephemera that documented the lives of African Americans in Oakland and around the Bay Area. Successful in their efforts, they amassed so much material that they literally "had the history of Beth Eden under our bed." After retiring from his decades-long position with Colgate Palmolive, Mr. Lasartemay embarked on a second and even more meaningful career. In 1965, his church group was formalized as the East Bay Negro Historical Society (EBNHS), an organization that he shepherded for the next 30 years.

Moving their collections out from under their beds and into the public eye was essential. In 1970, the EBNHS rented the first of two storefront properties on Grove Street (now Martin

Luther King Jr. Way). Their museum was open several days a week, and the Lasartemays welcomed school groups to showcase "our history [that has been] purposely omitted." In 1982, the East Bay Negro Historical Society was invited to bring their museum and programming to the Golden Gate Library. This was their central location for nearly a decade. After the EBNHS became the Northern California Center for Afro-American History & Life, the organization worked with the city to find a permanent home. In 2002, their wish became reality: joining with the city, the organization opened as the African American Museum and Library at Oakland in the Charles Greene Library. This elegant Carnegie-endowed building was the site of Oakland's second main library from 1902 to 1951.

Since the passing of his grandparents in the mid-1990s, Mark has been the guardian of his family's vast archives, boxes brimming with journals, photo albums, books, awards, plaques and documents. Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay's penchant for collecting permeated their personal lives. Eugene Lasartemay, an avid photographer, diligently documented family gatherings, their home through the seasons and many vacations, as well as EBNHS events. I am honored that Mark has trusted me to explore these materials with him and agreed to share the following invaluable documents from a most meticulous and stalwart man.

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History

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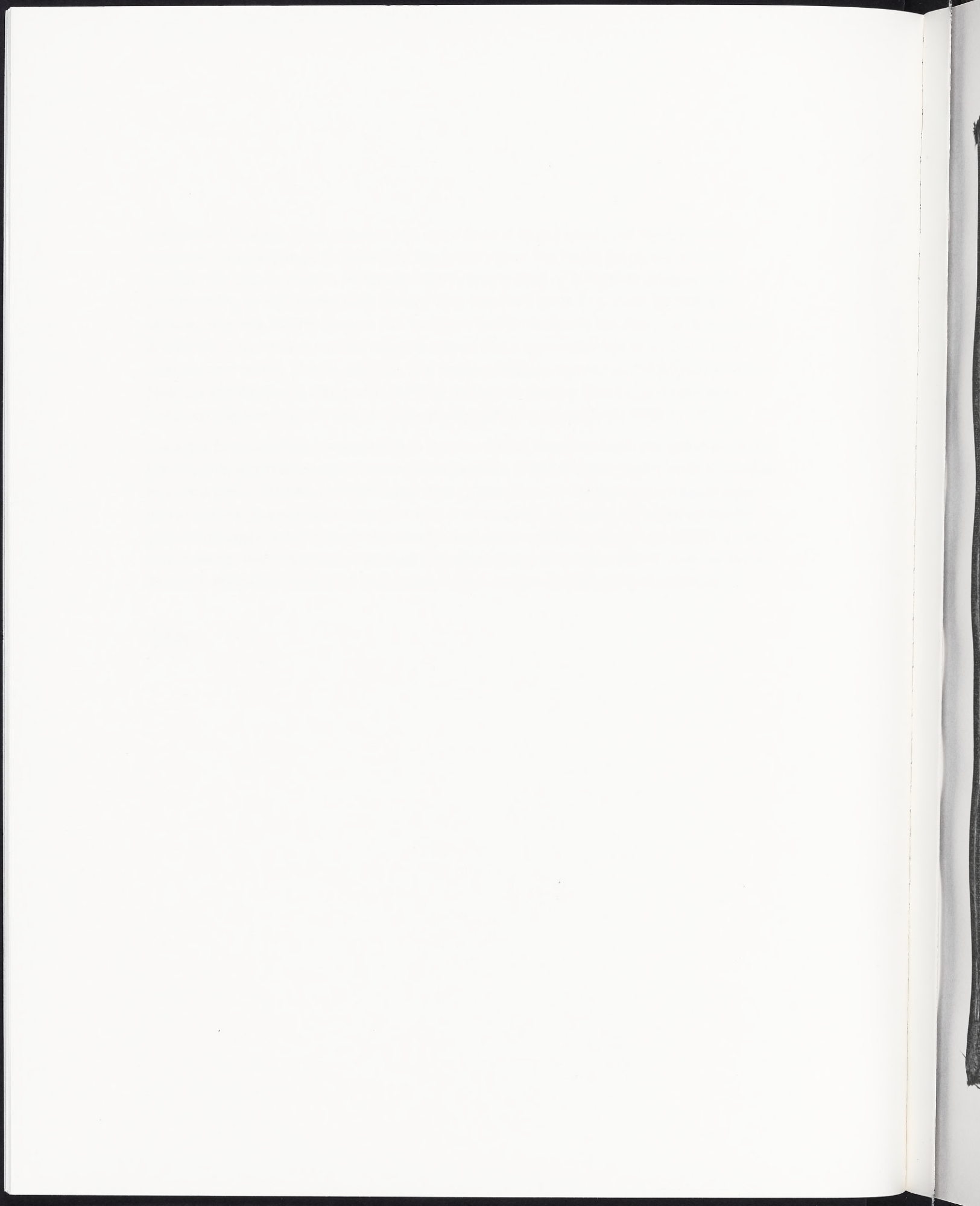
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DESKAIDE

THE SILENT SECRETARY

EUGENE P. LASARTEMAY
1399 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, Calif. 94702

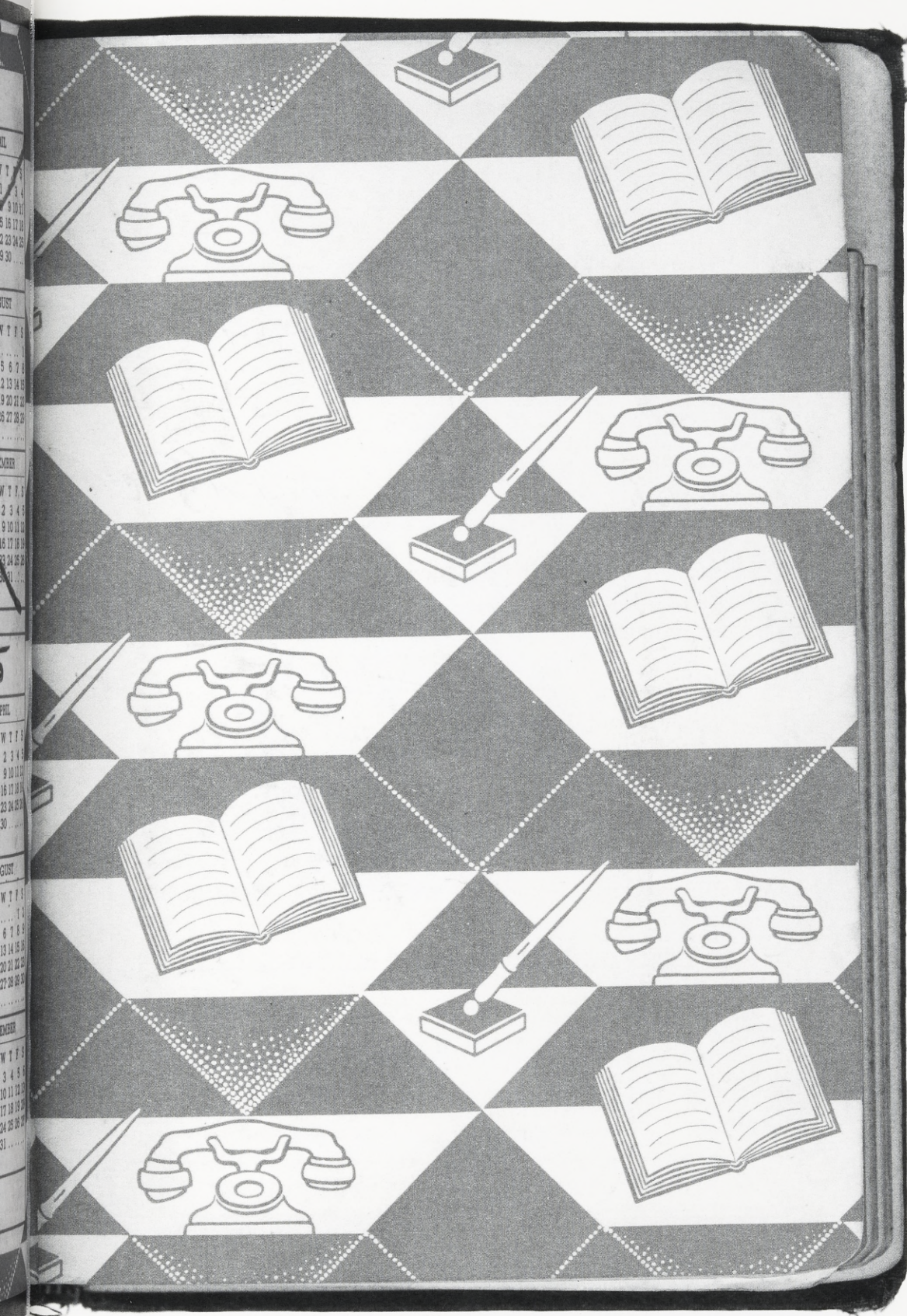
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CALENDAR FOR 1945

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
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Calendars for 1943 and 1944 are on inside back cover



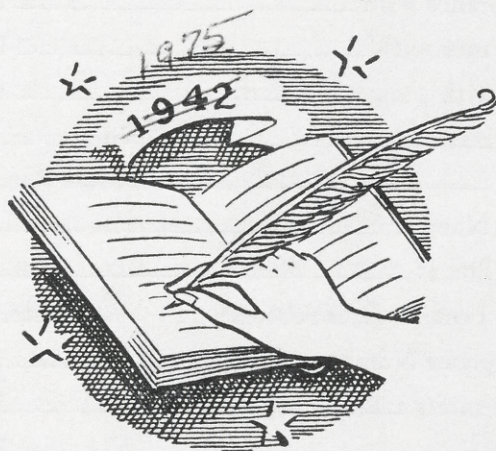
1948

Eugene P. Wasartemay
Financial Secretary
Church of the Good Shepherd (Bapt.)
799-52nd Street, Oakland, Ca. 94609

1975

Deskaid

THE SILENT SECRETARY



Including many pages of important
information - facts often wanted and
seldom remembered

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____

Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
Wife's }

Other Birthdays _____

Husband's } Shirt Size _____ Dress Size _____ Hosiery (H) _____ (W) _____
Wife's } Gloves (H) _____ (W) _____ Hat (H) _____ (W) _____ Shoes (H) _____ (W) _____

Motor Car License No. _____ Car No. _____ Engine No. _____

Certificate of Title No. _____ Driver's License _____

Motor Car Insurance with _____ Phone _____

Accident Insurance with _____ Phone _____

Fire Insurance with _____ Phone _____

FHA Number _____ HOLC Number _____

Mortgage with _____ Must Renew _____

Social Security Number _____

Safety Deposit Box at _____

First Sunday in Lent, 1942, is February 22 Easter Sunday is April 5

Golf Club Telephone Number _____

Woman's Club meets _____ Phone _____

Fuel from _____ Phone _____

Heating plant service _____ Phone _____

Refrigerator service _____ Phone _____

Radio service _____ Phone _____

Physician _____ Phone _____

Dentist _____ Phone _____

School Phone _____ High School _____

Church Phone Number _____

To DAY is the Birthday of

Eugene P. Wasaktemay

8:00

8:30

9:00

9:30

10:00

10:30

11:00

11:30

12:00

12:30

1:00

1:30

2:00

2:30

3:00

3:30

4:00

4:30

5:00

5:30

6:00

6:30

7:00

7:30

"This is my Life"

1981

My paternal Grandfather, Ignacio Lasarte, a Basque, was born in Pamplona, a city in the North Spanish French border, in the Navarre District.

I have no record of his age or the date that he as a bishop, went to Puerto Rico.

There, he met an Indian girl named Maria Lino Cantero, whom he married.

They became plantation owners or he was a plantation overseer and became wealthy.

My father, Patricio was one of several of their children. He was born in Cramo and was the black sheep of the family. He gambled on cock fights to the disgust of the family. At age 23 he left Puerto Rico in answer to a call by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters to work in their sugar plantations. Arriving in Hawaii in 1901, he met my mother, who at the age of 21 had also gone to Hawaii with her mother, sisters

"Rank and riches are chains of gold, but still chains"—RUFFINI

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 and brothers
 8:30 My mother, Ana Eclesia was the daughter
 9:00 of Jose Eclesia, a Spaniard and Carmen
 9:30 Rosa, the daughter of Spanish slaves.
 10:00 Aunt Marta, Aunt Guana, Uncle Atanacio,
 10:30 and Uncle John were the half brothers &
 11:00 sisters of mother and their father's name was To
 11:30 Grandma's brother Uncle Natalio came to
 12:00 Hawaii with the group.
 12:30 After a period of years Grandma married
 1:00 a black Portuguese by the name of Doming
 1:30 Cabral. From this union we had Aunt
 2:00 Alice Cabral
 2:30 I do not have the record of my parents
 3:00 wedding but on May 17, 1903 I was born
 3:30 back of the sugar mill at Kekaha, Kauai.
 4:00 That sugar mill still stands. The section
 4:30 where I was born was known as the
 5:00 Spanish Camp.
 5:30 Kauai, is the fourth large island of
 6:00 the Hawaiian archipelago.
 6:30 I must have been about 2 years old
 7:00 when my father deserted us and
 7:30 ~~Left Nesting~~

"Friends have all things in common"—PYTHAGORAS

10-50
To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 went to San Francisco California leaving
8:30 my mother pregnant with brother Louis
9:00 In destitution mother was taken in
9:30 by the Salvation Army Girls Home. This
10:00 Home was located in Honolulu on King
10:30 Street at the corner of the Pawa junction
11:00 At the age of 4 I can remember very little
11:30 such as the day some boys covered their bodies
12:00 with a white sheet, ~~from~~ across the street
12:30 that frightened me. ~~and~~ ^{there were} then jewelry workers
1:00 whose shop adjoined the ~~home~~ Salvation
1:30 Home.

2:00 In 1907, mom was attending the
2:30 Salvation Army, that was located on the
3:00 corner of King and Munam Streets (upstairs)
3:30 There she met my stepfather Karl Otto May.
4:00 He was active with the Army and I can
4:30 ~~remember~~ remember him beating on the bass drum.
5:00 There must have been a short courtship,
5:30 for a marriage took place before Bro
6:00 Louis was 2 years old.

6:30 Karl Otto May was born Karl Otto Lertz
7:00 in Offenburg, Germany. He deserted ship
7:30 in Honolulu. He was ^{re} good

"Rashness and haste make all things insecure"—DENHAM

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 Carpenter and followed the trade. He
 8:30 was a stubborn German and very often
 9:00 was without work, which caused a hardship
 9:30 often on the family.
 10:00 There were times that he took other
 10:30 occupations, when I was seven we were on
 11:00 the big island, Hawaii and lived in the city, Hilo.
 11:30 Pa was the manager of the Hilo Steam Laundry.
 12:00 at age 8 we were back in Honolulu and
 12:30 I can remember living in Kakaako in the
 1:00 Magoon Block, when I saw the first airplane
 1:30 flying over our building, I still remember the
 2:00 name of the pilot, Tom Green.
 2:30 I entered Normal School at age 8, on Punchbowl
 3:00 and was placed in the second grade.
 3:30 at age 10 we were on the island of Kauai
 4:00 where Pa was employed as a foreman on
 4:30 the Mauna Plantations.
 5:00 Practically all of my playmates were
 5:30 Japanese and Chinese, I even went to
 6:00 the Japanese school after the English school
 6:30 every day for several months.
 7:00 at age 12 we were back in Honolulu
 7:30 and I was entered in Kaimuki School.

"A page digested is better than a volume hurriedly read"—MACAULAY

16-50

To DAY is the Birthday of ^{my teacher} and my teacher was Ms. Miyamoto
~~the house~~ is located in the Palama district.
 8:00 We lived on Guld Lane. * ~~See back page~~
 8:30 All of my elementary education was at
 9:00 this school. Then McKinley High.
 9:30 I wanted so badly to complete my
 10:00 education at the University of Hawaii,
 10:30 but conditions at home prohibited it.
 11:00 World War I caused a big change in
 11:30 all of our lives. Because Pa only had
 12:00 his first papers for U.S. Citizenship and
 12:30 had failed to apply for his second papers
 1:00 which I believe ^{he should have done} in seven years, he was
 1:30 arrested as a German alien and shipped
 2:00 to Fort Douglas Utah.
 2:30 Tuition for studies at the U of H. could
 3:00 not be maintain.
 3:30 In 1921, I secured employment at Pearl
 4:00 Harbor Navy Base assisting a surveyor.
 4:30 I loved this work but one day the
 5:00 surveyor was ill and I was sent out
 5:30 with another person of whom I created
 6:00 a dislike. I asked to go to the rest
 6:30 room, but instead went pass the
 7:00 guard and home. The next day
 7:30

"There is nothing more imprudent than excessive prudence"—COLTON

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 the office ~~could~~ ^{would not} believe that I walked
 8:30 pass the guard without explanation and
 9:00 discharged me for insubordination.
 9:30 I secured a job with the Henry King
 10:00 Garage, but in a short while, I was
 10:30 asked to drive a Ford pickup to receive
 11:00 some acetylene gas tanks. Not being
 11:30 familiar with the paddle operation of the
 12:00 pickup I ran into a fence.
 12:30 It took sometime before a truck pulled
 1:00 my pickup out of a yard and back onto the
 1:30 street. By this time the foreman of the
 2:00 garage sent someone out to look for me
 2:30 and reported that I was joyriding near
 3:00 Washita Beach. I was discharged before
 3:30 I could tell them the truth of the broken
 4:00 fence. I left quickly. The next day the
 4:30 company wanted to know more of the
 5:00 fence and I don't remember whether they
 5:30 learned the truth.
 6:00 I then went to work in Eddie Dunn's
 6:30 Auto Paint Shop, Paul Co Paint Shop,
 7:00 Schuman Carriage Co, then finally to
 7:30 another paint shop manned by two

"Watch lest prosperity destroy generosity"—H. W. BEECHER

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 whites. Most of the paint shops were

8:30 manned by orientals.

9:00 The whites were then introducing a
9:30 new skill in auto painting. The balking
10:00 of the hood, Fenders, aprons and the whites
10:30 did not want the orientals to learn of
11:00 that skill.

11:30 I worked with them and not only
12:00 learned of the skill but learned that
12:30 I could learn twice as much in
1:00 California.

1:30 Through the World War years and
2:00 Pa's detainment in Fort Douglas all
2:30 of my earnings went to the family upkeep
3:00 but by 1922 I was saving some of my
3:30 earnings.

4:00 At an early age of 14 I was taught
4:30 music by the Salvation Army and played
5:00 a B flat baritone for them. Then I went
5:30 into string band with a group of
6:00 Porto Rican boys. We called ourselves
6:30 the Porto Rican fine.

7:00 This way I learned some extra
7:30 Scout Meeting

"All sunshine makes the desert"—ARAB PROVERB

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____

Husband's } Birthday (H) _____

(W) _____

Wife's _____

Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00	money. Our group played the	8:00	8:00
8:30	first week of the opening of Radio	8:30	8:30
9:00	Station KTVX of Honolulu	9:00	9:00
9:30	In 1923 I had saved enough	9:30	9:30
10:00	money for ship passage to San	10:00	10:00
10:30	Francisco.	10:30	10:30
11:00	My stepfather was now back in	11:00	11:00
11:30	Hawaii after the detainment at Fort Douglas	11:30	11:30
12:00	Utah.	12:00	12:00
12:30	With the case coming from the Swiss Legation	12:30	12:30
1:00	who handled all German affairs and	1:00	1:00
1:30	the Associated Charities, mother with	1:30	1:30
2:00	Louis and I was able to keep the family	2:00	2:00
2:30	alive.	2:30	2:30
3:00	In March of 1923, I left Honolulu	3:00	3:00
3:30	on the S.S. President Cleveland for San	3:30	3:30
4:00	Francisco.	4:00	4:00
4:30	Upon arrival I immediately went	4:30	4:30
5:00	to the home of my Godmother, Daisy	5:00	5:00
5:30	Godet Chantre. She then resided on Pine	5:30	5:30
6:00	Street a few doors to the corner of Fillmore Street	6:00	6:00
6:30	After trying for three weeks searching	6:30	6:30
7:00	for a place of employment I finally	7:00	7:00
7:30	was offered a job with the	7:30	7:30

"Every brave man is a man of his word"—CORNEILLE

10-60
Po DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 Don Lee Company on Van Ness Avenue.

8:30 They offered me 4 dollars a day for my

9:00 labor. I already had learned that, for

9:30 the work that would be expected of

0:00 me, they were paying 8 dollars a day

0:30 I did not commit myself in accepting

1:00 but went home to grandmother and mentioned

1:30 that I did secure a job but was ^{not} happy

2:00 about the 4 dollars.

2:30 She immediately said "Ah Ha." sit

1:00 down there. She stated that in this

1:30 Country and you have this (she pointed

2:00 to her cheek) referring to her color - this

2:30 is the way they treat you.

3:00 The next morning I walked from

3:30 Pine & Fillmore to Market Street, thence down

4:00 Market as far as the Ferry Building.

4:30 When I reached the Ferry Building, my mind

5:00 was still confused, because I never

5:30 suffered humiliation on account of

6:00 my color. In Hawaii, we of all races

6:30 played together, went to school together

7:00 and lived together as people.

7:30 Upon reaching to Ferry Building, I

"Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to God"—FRANKLIN

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00	started toward the fishermen's wharf	8:00
8:30	when a man walked up to me	8:30
9:00	and said, hey, do you want to	9:00
9:30	go to Panama?	9:30
10:00	I jumped at that bait and said	10:00
10:30	yes. I learned of the ship that was	10:30
11:00	signing on a crew that was to sail	11:00
11:30	down the Central American coast and	11:30
12:00	ports, as far as Colon, Panama, was	12:00
12:30	named "Cuba" of the Pacific Mail Steamship	12:30
1:00	Co.	1:00
1:30	I entered the wharf with no problem	1:30
2:00	up the gangway to the ship. There I met a	2:00
2:30	gentleman in a blue uniform and silver	2:30
3:00	stripes on his sleeves. I learned later that	3:00
3:30	he was a Steward. He asked me if I was	3:30
4:00	a pantry man. I lied and said yes. I	4:00
4:30	not even know what a pantry was.	4:30
5:00	He directed me to the ship's saloon where	5:00
5:30	the Shipping Commissioner was having a	5:30
6:00	crew signed for the voyage. I signed	6:00
6:30	as 2nd Pantryman. The 2nd Steward then	6:30
7:00	escorted me to the pantry.	7:00
7:30	Was I surprised to see dishes,	7:30

"He that will not reflect is a ruined man"—OLD PROVERB

10:50

No DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 a steam table and to think of
8:30 never having to do anything with food
9:00 but eat it!

9:30 The Steward instructed me to get
10:00 two large crocks and to make plenty
10:30 of Mayonnaise and Thousand Island dressing.
11:00 I went home for my clothes and
11:30 on return, I proceeded to look for the
12:00 1st Pantryman to inform him that
12:30 I did not know how to make the dressings
1:00 as instructed.

1:30 A little fellow that I believe about
2:00 4-foot 10 inches came to the pantry and when
2:30 I questioned him about a 1st Pantryman, he
3:00 stated that he was the Chief pantryman. I
3:30 was happy for a few minutes when I
4:00 learned that he did not know as much
4:30 as I did about the pantry.

5:00 When the Steward learned of the
5:30 predicament we were in, he took the
6:00 Chief and placed him as third cook and
6:30 brought the 3rd cook in the Pantry as Chief.
7:00 I was kept on the job as 2nd Pantryman.
7:30 I must have caught on rapidly so that

"To reform a man, you must begin with his grandmother"—VICTOR HUGO

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____

Husband's } Birthday (H) _____

Wife's }

(W) _____

Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 the Chief Steward approached me a few
8:30 days before arrival in San Francisco and
9:00 asked me whether I wanted to take the
9:30 ship out on its next trip as chief purser.
10:00 I agreed but this was not to be.
10:30 ~~On~~ Ninety miles off the Santa Barbara Coast
11:00 one morning about 4 PM. the Cuba plowed in
11:30 a bed of rocks. Five life boats put out
12:00 from the ship. Two headed for open sea
12:30 two, and I was in one, rowed to an island
1:00 which I learned later was named San Miguel
1:30 The other lifeboat went along the coast and
2:00 was met by a fleet of U.S. Navy destroyers
2:30 They went immediately in search
3:00 ~~behind at Point School 10th & Point~~
3:30 ~~Coast of~~
4:00 for us and the seven destroyers plowed
4:30 into the rocks & island on the opposite side
5:00 with a loss of 23 lives.
5:30 At about 6 PM. That night another
6:00 destroyer took only the passengers that were
6:30 with us. We were taken off the island
7:00 the next day and was taken to San Pedro
7:30 later shipped back to San Francisco.

"Religious contention is the devil's harvest"—FONTAINE

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 I never did care about food preparation
8:30 so applied for services as an ordinary
9:00 seaman and sailed out of S.F. on
9:30 the American Hawaiian & S. Arizona
10:00 This trip was an exciting and a
10:30 new experience for me.

11:00 As an ordinary seaman I worked
11:30 with the able bodied seaman. All was
12:00 well until we went from New York to
12:30 Boston via of the Nantucket pass.

1:00 It was winter and the pass was
1:30 frozen. We had to be guided by an ice
2:00 breaker. On the bow watch I was
2:30 there with a lot of clothing on and
3:00 even my face covered. But oh it was
3:30 cold. I promised myself that as soon as
4:00 I got to San Francisco, that I was
4:30 through on deck as a seaman. As
5:00 soon as the ship touch dock in S.F.
5:30 I was off. Never to work on deck again
6:00 as a sailor.

6:30 I then decided that the best place
7:00 for me to work on a ship, since I
7:30 was getting ~~slow~~ ^{slow} to travel, was

"True friendship is a plant of slow growth"—GEORGE WASHINGTON

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____

Husband's { Birthday (H)

(W)

Wife's

Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 and brothers

8:30 My mother, Ana Eclesia was the daughter

9:00 of Jose Eclesia, a Spaniard and Carmen

9:30 Rosa, the daughter of Spanish slaves.

10:00 Aunt Marta, Aunt Glenda, Uncle Atanacio,

10:30 and Uncle John were the half brothers &

11:00 sisters of mother and their father's name was To

11:30 Grandma's brother Uncle Natalio came to

12:00 Hawaii with the group.

12:30 After a period of years Grandma married

1:00 a black Portuguese by the name of Domingo

1:30 Cabral. From this union we had Aunt

2:00 Alice Cabral

2:30 I do not have the record of my parents

3:00 wedding but on May 17, 1903 I was born

3:30 back of the sugar mill at Kekaha, Kauai.

4:00 That sugar mill still stands. The section

4:30 where I was born was known as the

5:00 Spanish Camp.

5:30 Kauai, is the fourth large island of

6:00 the Hawaiian archipelago.

6:30 I must have been about 2 years old

7:00 when my father deserted us and

7:30 ~~Sancti Nectary~~

"Friends have all things in common"—PYTHAGORAS

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other _____

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 Coast view of the Panama Canal. It was
 8:30 not an easy task for me for the old
 9:00 freighter had some clogged up oil
 9:30 tanks and I had an awful time
 10:00 getting the fuel oil to flashing point
 10:30 when we got to New York there was
 11:00 a maritime strike on. We moved the
 11:30 ship to New Jersey where I got off the
 12:00 ship and headed for home on a
 12:30 bus.
 1:00 After the strike was over, I received
 1:30 a telegram to report to the S.S. Gold
 2:00 Kauri in New Jersey.
 2:30 I complied and as soon as I
 3:00 boarded the ship, lines were hoisted
 3:30 off to sea and went, headed for the West
 4:00 Coast.
 4:30 I was placed on the S.S. Fort
 5:00 Wayne as second asst. Engineer.
 5:30 This ship was sold for scrap
 6:00 to the Japanese.
 6:30 When the Japanese were ready
 7:00 take over, they sent their
 7:30 engineers to us to be informed

"Revenge is the abject pleasure of an abject mind"—JUVENAL

AY is the Birthday of M1

was on the operation of the engines.

I was introduced to a Second Asst. Engineer who followed me daily with a chalk in his hand and scribbling every part of the boiler room, every line & pumps. If I missed anything, he would call my attention to it. This was quite an experience in my lifetime.

My next assignment was on a slow freighter. This voyage was from the port of San Francisco to the Pacific North west to Australia, the main port was Melbourne, thence to Hawaii and San Francisco. About a five month trip.

Something interesting about Australia.

I was on duty down in the engine room when we entered the harbor at Melbourne. The ship was stopped, immigration officers boarded the ship. I was called up to be seen by the officers, recorded as a negro and was seen on board when we left the harbor.

Australia is a nice place and so are the people. I never

"Ridicule is the first and last argument of fools"—C. SIMMONS

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 had a moment humiliation.
 8:30 I learned a lesson on horse
 9:00 racing. Two of the finest race
 9:30 tracks are there. The Caulfield and
 10:00 Flemington. I won on the horses for
 10:30 18 days, and on the 19th day I won
 11:00 on all races until the last race, when
 11:30 a horse by the name of Wotan, looked
 12:00 like a winner. All of my money went
 12:30 on him. I do not know how much
 1:00 I lost but people were watching me
 1:30 pull money out of all my pockets
 2:00 and it even excited them.
 2:30 The horse was only ridden around
 3:00 the track for exercise, I'm convinced.
 3:30 I learned that the horse was
 4:00 running in a gold cup race the
 4:30 following Saturday. That Saturday
 5:00 we were at a small port, called
 5:30 Malpa, I believe when I heard the
 6:00 announcement that Wotan had won
 6:30 the gold cup. To this day you
 7:00 cannot get me to place a bet on
 7:30 horses. I will never know how

"I would rather be right than be president"—HENRY CLAY

11:50

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 much I bet on Wotan, for I never
8:30 really learned the value and use
9:00 of the Australian money.

9:30 On the completion of this voyage I
10:00 was convinced by my wife who stated
10:30 that my son was 2 years old and needed
11:00 his father, that my responsibility should
11:30 be at home.

12:00 In the fall of 1938 I gave up the
12:30 sea for home and began job hunting.
1:00 This went on for 9 months.

1:30 Wherever I applied, it was a curiosity
2:00 for a man of my color to be looking
2:30 for a skilled job, as an engineer.

3:00 The very first company that I applied
3:30 was the Colgate Palmolive Co. an example
4:00 of the excuse different employers make
4:30 was like the Borden Creamery. The

5:00 engineer said that I was just the
5:30 man he needed, but first I must be
6:00 approved by the Union. The Union said
6:30 that they had men waiting for a job
7:00 and must be served first.

7:30 After 9 months of frustration, one

"On rumor's tongues continual slanders ride"—SHAKESPEARE

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____

Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____

Wife's } _____

Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 night at 8 pm I received a
8:30 phone call by Mrs. Watson, the business
9:00 agent of C 10 Ford 96 in Oakland.
9:30 She stated that there was a job at
10:00 Calgate Palmolive Co. I could get. She said
10:30 that it was a porters job and that
11:00 I could build seniority and bid for
11:30 a job of my choosing.
12:00 I reported to Calgate even wondering
12:30 why a soap factory would have porters.
1:00 I learned that Saturday morning that
1:30 porters was just a nice name for janitor.
2:00 Just imagine my feelings from a
2:30 licensed marine engineer to a janitor
3:00 sweeping and mopping factory floors.
3:30 After one is out of work for 9 months
4:00 you stop to think a awful time, so
4:30 I decided to stick.
5:00 It wasn't but a short while when
5:30 there was a bid on the board for the
6:00 Glycine department. I bid for it and
6:30 with no problem with the company, I
7:00 did run into a problem with the
7:30 Union. I learned that there was

"What signifies sadness; a man grows lean upon it"—MACKENZIE

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 a gentlemen's agreement that a porter
8:30 could not bid for any job in the
9:00 factory.

9:30 I challenged the union and there
10:00 was a meeting held at the ILWU local
10:30 6 hall, ~~which~~ where 500 members of
11:00 Colgate met to make a decision. The
11:30 porters (3) would not accompany me
12:00 so I was the only black present.

12:30 When all was said I was asked
1:00 whether I had anything to say.

1:30 I pulled out my Marine Engineers
2:00 Union book and held it up, stating
2:30 that I was the only black in that Union
3:00 and that I even did picket duty in
3:30 the Longshoremen's strike. That eventually
4:00 helped form the Warehousemen's Union. I
4:30 believe I shamed them, for they voted
5:00 in my favor.

5:30 I broke the ice for blacks at
6:00 Colgate and immediately went to
6:30 work in the Glycerine department. From
7:00 the Glycerine Department there was no
7:30 problem in bidding into the

"No sword bites so fiercely as an evil tongue"—SIR P. SIDNEY

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of 772

8:00 engineering department, so that at the
 8:30 first opportunity I was in the power
 9:00 plant and remained there to July
 9:30 1965 when I retired on pension
 10:00 In retirement there were many organizations
 10:30 that I was involved in and continued
 11:00 to do community service, e.g. Boy Scouts
 11:30 of America. In Oct 1941 I applied as
 12:00 a charter member of the Boy Scout Troop
 12:30 of Beth Eden Baptist Church. The troop
 1:00 was numbered 43. I was elected as its
 1:30 first chairman of the Troop Committee.
 2:00 On Dec. 7 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl
 2:30 Harbor. Men were immediately drafted
 3:00 into service. Jeffery Lewis, the Scoutmaster
 3:30 went into service so that I had to take
 4:00 leadership as scoutmaster. Several hundred
 4:30 of boys served under me and I can
 5:00 name a few that have brought pride
 5:30 and joy to me.
 6:00 Gordon ^{Calvin} now a doctor with Oakland Health
 6:30 Bill Russell to fame basketball player
 7:00 Frank Robinson today Manager of the SF Giants
 7:30 Eugene Bell - Principal Valley High School

"Believe that story false that ought not to be true" - SHERIDAN

11:50

Today is the Birthday of

8:00 Charles Clay X-Ray Technician Stamford Hosp.

8:30 Muddy Brock - Dept of Energy - Chemist

9:00 I have learned that of all those boys

9:30 only about three or four went bad.

10:00 Godwin Taylor is a Captain of the Fire

10:30 Department, Joseph Villa a successful

11:00 Real Estate Broker & one time president of

11:30 the Real Estate Board.

12:00 Richard Keacock a successful Engineer

12:30 Robert Taylor is now a principal in an Oakland

1:00 School

1:30 I became very active in Beth Eden Baptist

2:00 Church. I was baptized in 1928 ~~for~~ On

2:30 retirement from the sec. I started ~~in~~ serving

3:00 as a trustee to 1956.

3:30 From 1956 and to date 1981 I am serving

4:00 Church of the Good Shepherd as a trustee. The

4:30 first 19 years of the life of Church of the Good

5:00 Shepherd, I served as Chairman of the Board

5:30 of Trustees.

6:00 In the 1940's I became very interested

6:30 in the affairs of the National Organization

7:00 for the Advancement of Colored People. I

7:30 not only joined but became active

"What thou seest speak of with caution"—Solon

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 on the Board of executives of the
 8:30 Alameda County Branch. After several
 9:00 years the N.A.A.C.P. Alameda Branch was
 9:30 divided into chapters in several Bay
 10:00 area cities. I became a charter member
 10:30 of the Berkeley Chapter, and as of this
 11:00 date in 1981 am a charter member of
 11:30 the Board of Directors. 1981 I am serving
 12:00 as 2nd Vice President and Chairman of the
 12:30 Membership Committee.
 1:00 Although I was a philatelist, having
 1:30 started in 1940 collecting postage
 2:00 stamps I have given in to photograph
 2:30 In September 1955 I organized the
 3:00 Los Arts Camera Club. The name was
 3:30 changed to the Acorn Camera Club and
 4:00 to this day in 1981 I am an active
 4:30 member. I served this club as
 5:00 president for about 19 years.
 5:30 I am listed as a charter member
 6:00 of East Gate Lodge #44 F.&A.M. On
 6:30 November 30, 1930 I was raised
 7:00 to a Master mason. I was long
 7:30 in being initiated in the order

"Conceal thy domestic ills"—THALES

10:00

To DAY is the Birthday of (employed as a Merchant seaman,

8:00 because I was sailing the seas. My
8:30 application was made with the new
9:00 lodge that was being instituted in
9:30 Berkeley. I had to be cracked but
10:00 it was hard for me to be with
10:30 anyone for a period of time for
11:00 month to ear cracking.

11:30 I received three degrees in one night
12:00 at the Lion Hall on Cleatroy & King
12:30 streets in Berkeley and today 9/25/81

1:00 I am the only charter member alive
1:30 to be exempt from dues payment
2:00 after 50 years of continuous service.
2:30 Because of the changing shifts of work hours,
3:00 I only advanced to senior degree and stopped
3:30 because I could not serve the lodge properly.

4:00 I joined Royal Arch #10 out of curiosity
4:30 to learn of one specific matter in masonry.
5:00 Being satisfied, I quit masonry at the
5:30 7th degree which was the Royal Arch.

6:00 Upon retirement from Colgate Company in
6:30 1965. My son now 29 and daughter 15
7:00 I was asked to be with a small group
7:30 of 7 in number to start a society

"Slavery under one's own passions is worse than under tyrants"—PYTHAGORAS

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 in the interest of study of the Negro.
 8:30 I agreed and with my wife, Ruth,
 9:00 Jesse & Marcella Ford & Harold Mason,
 9:30 Morrie Turner and Madison Harvey, we
 10:00 organized the Port Bay Negro Historical Society.
 10:30 I was made its first president beginning
 11:00 July 2, 1965. We certainly did not realize
 11:30 at the time just how much time, money and
 12:00 effort this venture would entail.
 12:30 First we met at ones homes, but soon
 1:00 we had to plan to meet elsewhere we could
 1:30 invite the public.
 2:00 The annex at Church of the Good Shepherd,
 2:30 52nd & West Streets in Oakland was
 3:00 after a short while with historical
 3:30 matters accumulating, we began thinking
 4:00 of buying a place to operate from.
 4:30 We finally decided to rent and found
 5:00 a place at 3651 Grove Street at the Corner
 5:30 of 37th Street in Oakland.
 6:00 Mr. & Mrs. Scniaga leased the place to
 6:30 us and we remained there for about 10
 7:00 years.
 7:30 Our collection of documents, books

"Even dress is apt to inflame a man's opinion of himself"—HOME

10-80

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 and artifacts grew.

8:30 More and more request came for tours
9:00 lectures and other information on the
9:30 black man's achievements.

10:00 In 1977 we made another move to
10:30 4579 Grove Street near the corner of 45th
11:00 Street in Oakland.

11:30 We now have three rooms whose
12:00 walls are covered with pictures
12:30 and documents. We now have many
1:00 artifacts on display such at least 500
1:30 books on negroes.

2:00 Ruth and I meet here at the Century
2:30 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
3:00 at 12 Noon to 5:00 pm.

3:30 On request we open for tours at
4:00 odd hours.

4:30 We lecture to schools and other
5:00 groups or institutions.

5:30 In July 1979 I attended a proposal
6:00 workshop in Washington, D.C. for the
6:30 express purpose of applying for
7:00 a grant to organize a media slide
7:30 show of the material that we

"The greatest of all flatterers is self-love"—ROCHEFOUCAULD

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 now have, especially with the
 8:30 blacks in California and its beginning
 9:00 at present Oct 1981 we have a group
 9:30 that is putting together a reduced project
 10:00 of the media slide to satisfy the
 10:30 National Endowment for the Humanities.
 11:00 Our original application is for \$60,000.
 11:30 The Society now incorporated as a
 12:00 non profit corporation and bulging
 12:30 and crying for more room, have
 1:00 just signed a lease with the City
 1:30 of Oakland to be housed in
 2:00 the Green Gate Library at 5606 San
 2:30 Pablo Ave. in Oakland.
 3:00 The lease goes to the Oakland Council
 3:30 for approval.
 4:00 We plan to move and be in the
 4:30 new home in Jan 1982
 5:00
 5:30 We did move the first week of Jan 1982
 6:00 and today April 1, 1986 we start with
 6:30 a grant hiring a curator. Retiring my
 7:00 wife Ruth.
 7:30 Now in 1988 we have had an

"Lawless are they that make their wills their law"—SHAKESPEARE

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00 exhibit of California First Blacks.
8:30 We have decided to reorganize ourselves
9:00 and have a Director for the East Bay Negro
9:30 Historical Society. Mr. Lawrence Crouchett
10:00 agreed to serve the society as an Executive Director.
10:30 1989 proved to be an exciting year.
11:00 I wrote a letter to Senator Nicholas Petris and
11:30 Assemblyman Elin Harris, stating that the
12:00 East Bay Negro Historical Society needed
12:30 help to keep alive. Both legislators were
1:00 interested. Petris letting Harris carry the
1:30 ball.
2:00 First the suggestion of changing the name
2:30 of the Society, making it broader in California.
3:00 The Board agree and so did the membership
3:30 so that we became the Northern California
4:00 Center for Afro-American History & Life.
4:30 Yet Elin Harris had a bill that passed to
5:00 help us, but tied to State Parks & Recreation
5:30 we ran into a block.
6:00 Assemblyman Harris made a \$200,000
6:30 grant possible for us and we will start
7:00 1990 well strengthened with a new face,
7:30 equipment and paid staff.

"Of plain, sound sense, life's current coin is made"—YOUNG

I MUST NOT FORGET

Wedding Anniversary _____
 Husband's } Birthday (H) _____ (W) _____
 Wife's }
 Other Birthdays _____

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00 1992 we have a new face at our
 8:30 Center. Modernized professionally and
 9:00 our entire materials are being computerized
 9:30 Today is Feb. 16, 1992.
 10:00 This being Black History month we are equipped
 10:30 to serve the public
 11:00 I personally have three engagements and
 11:30 on July 9 will step down as President
 12:00 serving 26 years and will request Emeritus
 12:30 status.
 1:00 Now that I have more time to myself
 1:30 I will keep an eye on the rental properties
 2:00 and my book "For Love of Jack London"
 2:30
 3:00
 3:30
 4:00
 4:30
 5:00
 5:30
 6:00
 6:30
 7:00
 7:30

"I regard that man as lost who has lost his sense of shame"—PLAUTUS

To DAY is the Birthday of _____

8:00

8:30

9:00

9:30

10:00

10:30

11:00

11:30

12:00

12:30

1:00

1:30

2:00

2:30

3:00

3:30

4:00

4:30

5:00

5:30

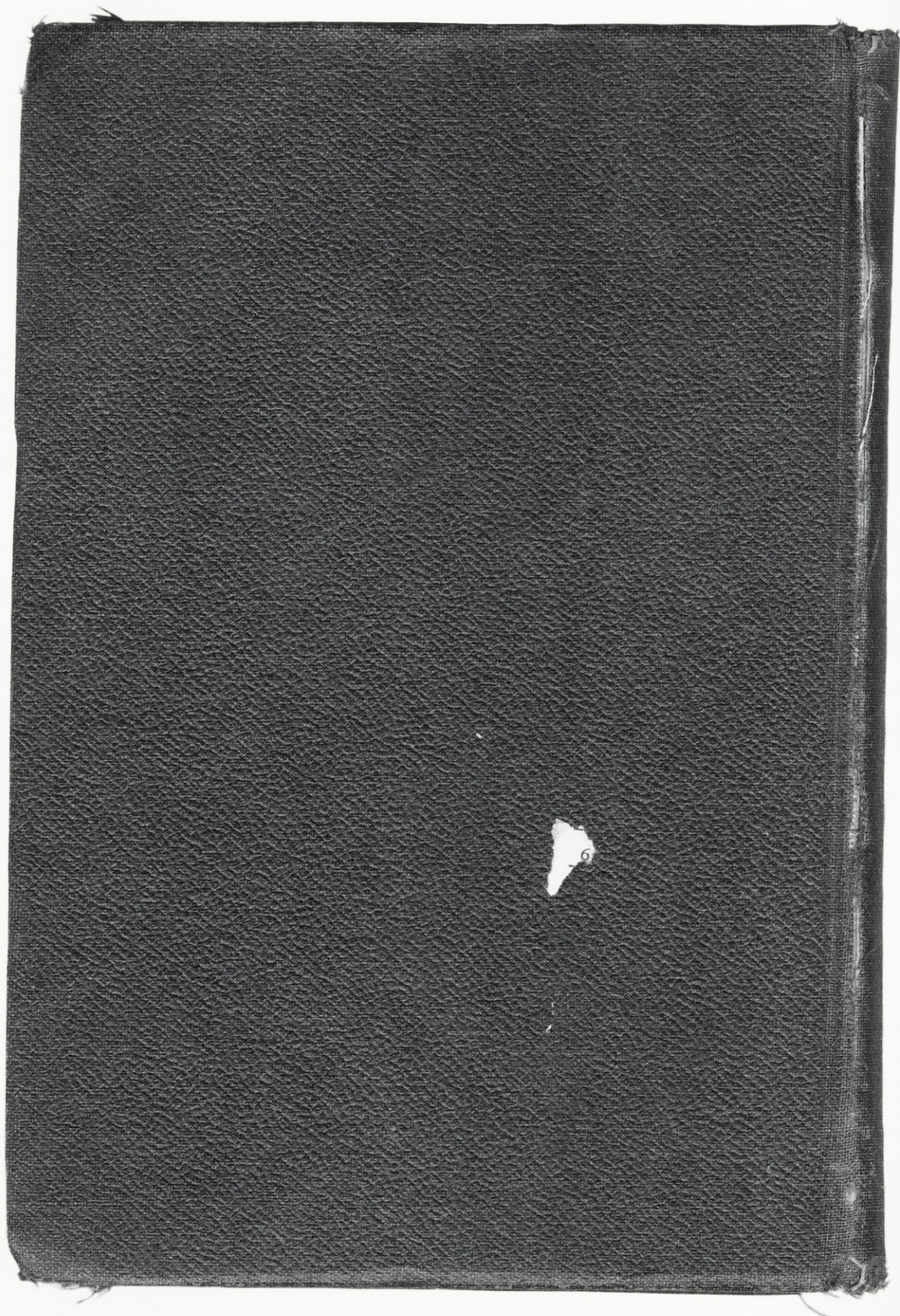
6:00

6:30

7:00

7:30

"Speech is great, but silence is greater"—CARLYLE



A faint, grayscale background image of a family is visible. It shows a man, a woman, and a child, possibly in a park or outdoor setting, though the details are very light and faded.

FAMILY ALBUM

FAMILY ALBUM

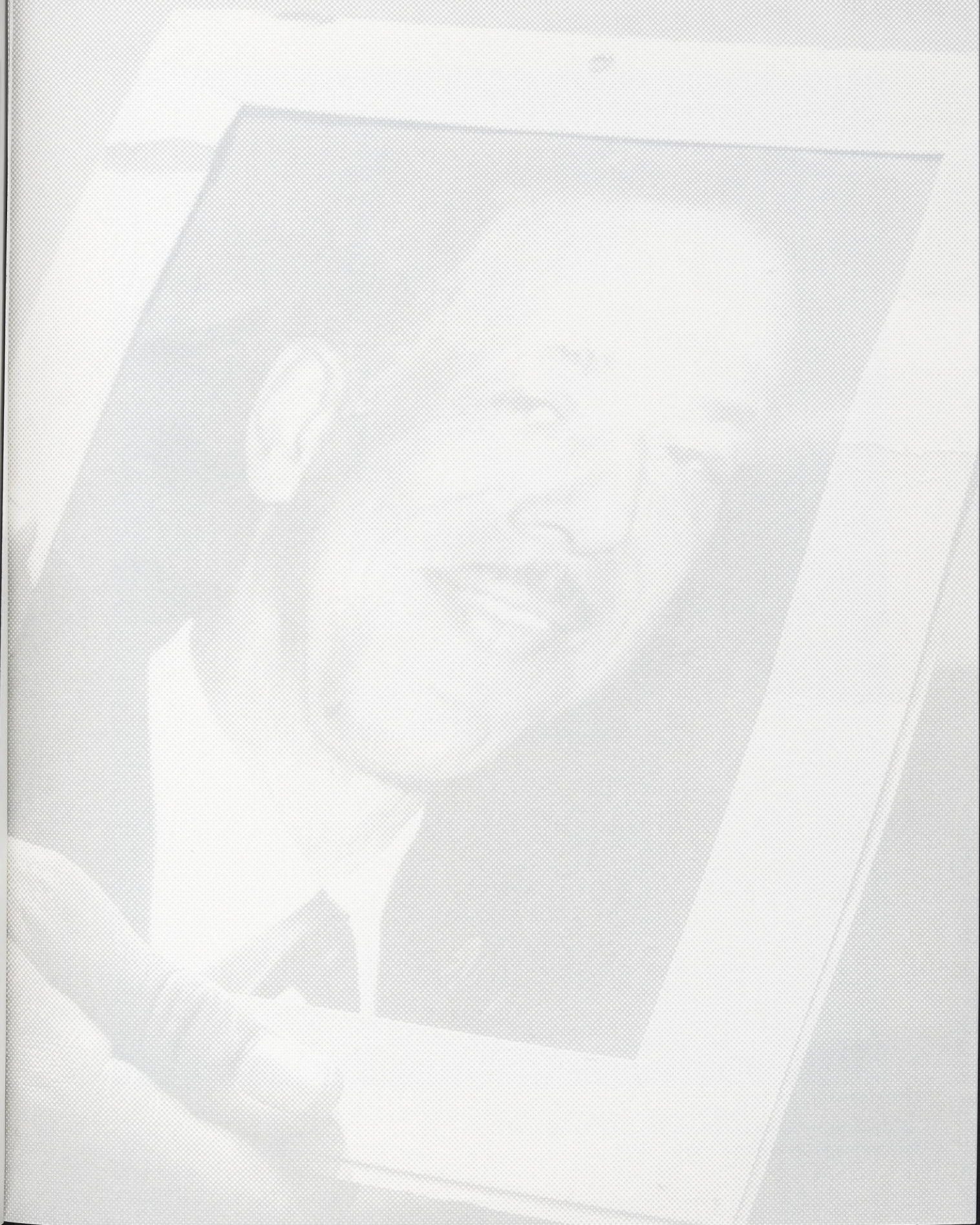


PHOTO PREVIOUS PAGE

Family photo of Eugene Lasartemay, one of the founders of
the East Bay Negro Historical Society, 1959

Father & son
 Valdez Pascual Lasartemay
 Born Sept. 11, 1936



another child:
 Elena Ruth
 Lasartemay
 Born April 5, 1950

Eugene Pascual Lasartemay
 Born: May 17, 1903
 Place: Kekaha, Kauai - Territory of Hawaii
 Occupation: Stationery Engineer
 Real Estate Broker
 Religious denomination: Baptist
 Son of Ana Adellina ^{Iglesia} Torres Lasarte May
 and Patricio Lasarte
 Relationship: Father



Eugene Lasartemay's mother, Ana Iglesia Adeline Torres De Lasarte. Photo taken by Eugene Lasartemay, Kauai, Hawaii, circa 1920



Mother & kids at Lihue, Kauai

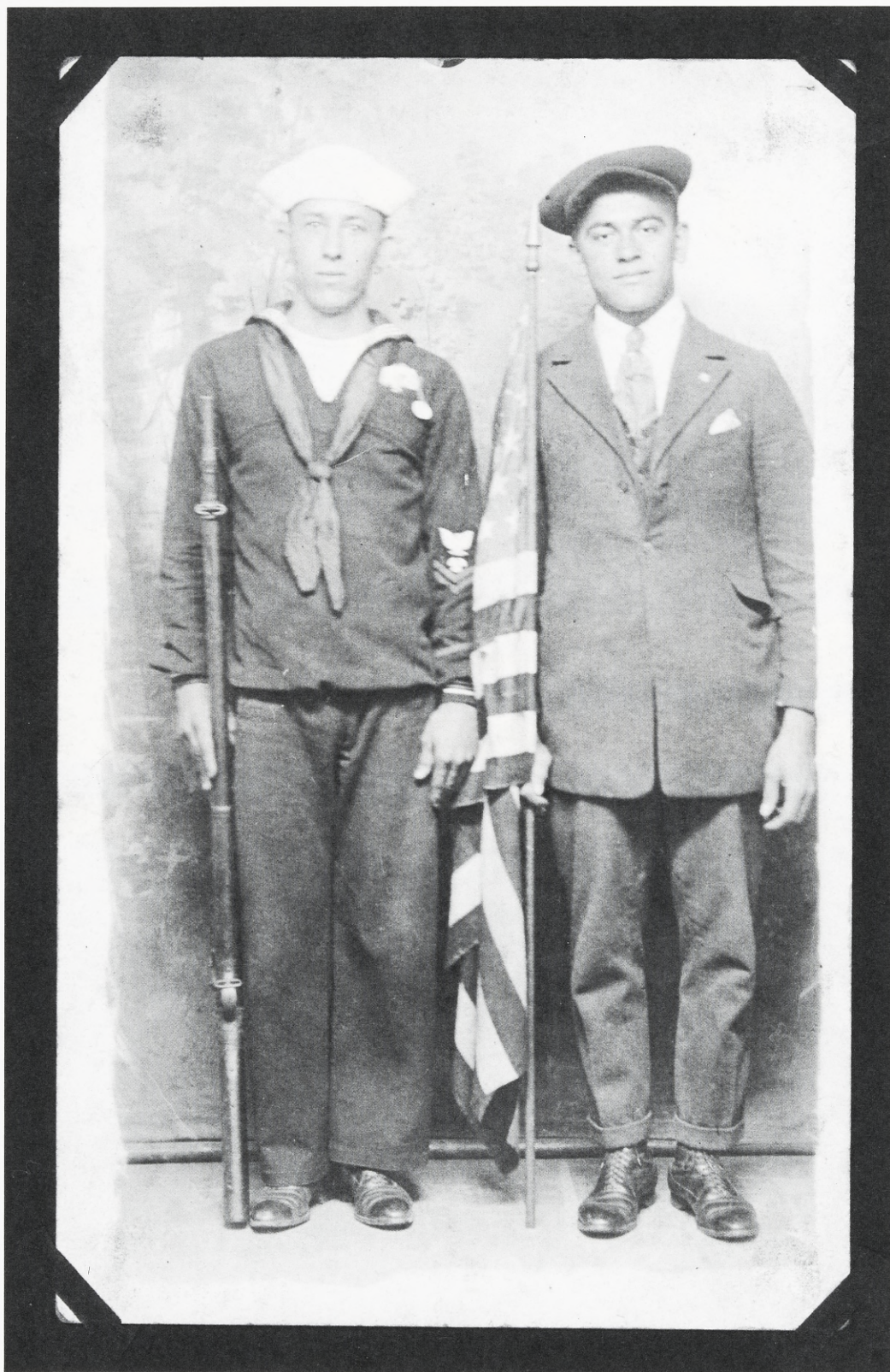
"Mother & Kids." Photo by Eugene Lasartemay from his sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



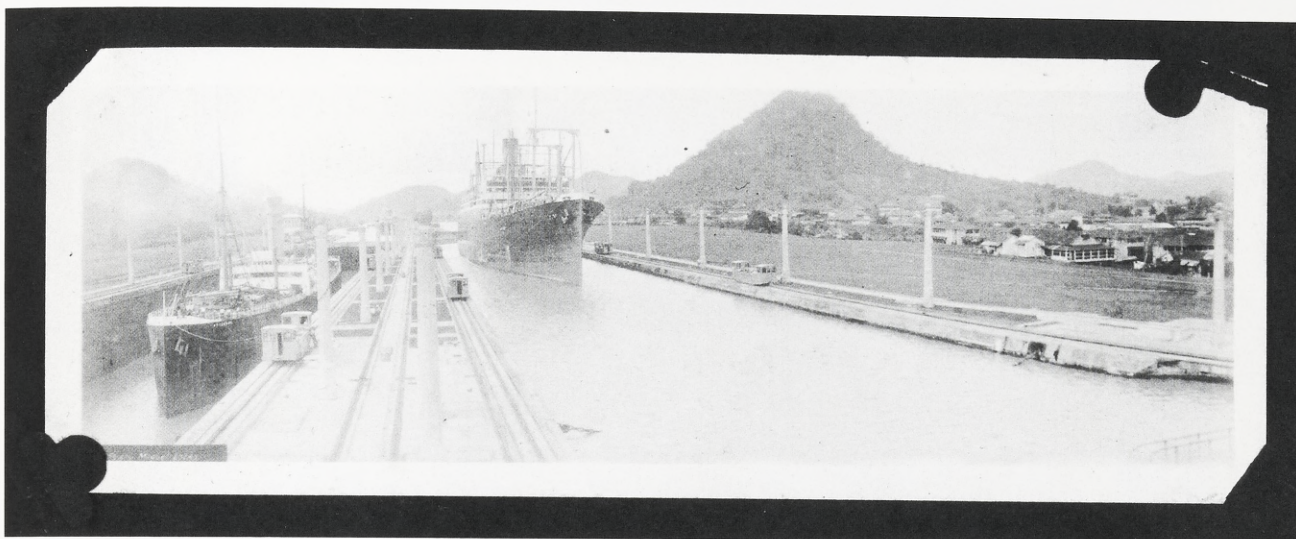
Unidentified youth. Photo taken by Eugene Lasartemay, circa 1920



Unidentified young men. From Eugene Lasartemay's sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



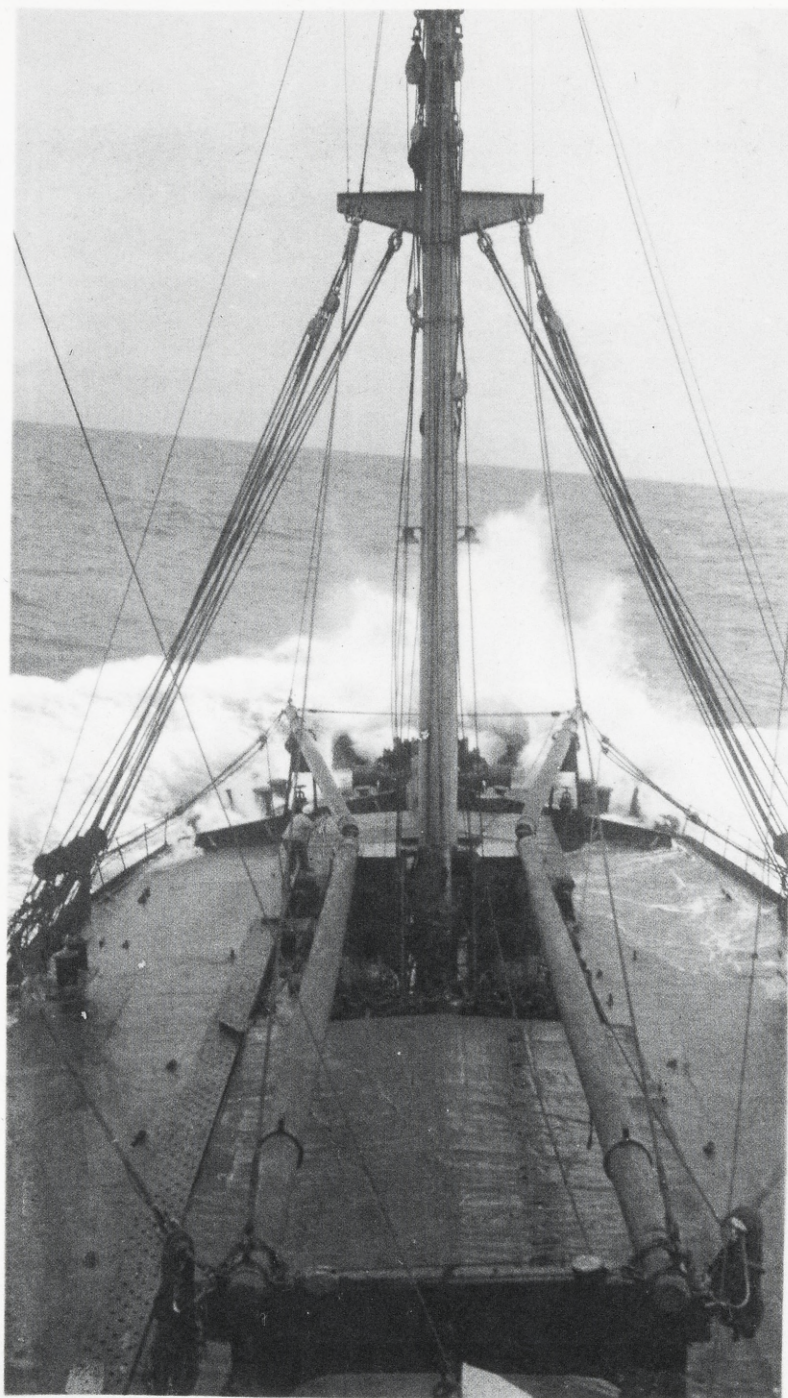
Unidentified young men. From Eugene Lasartemay's sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



"Crossing the Panama Canal." Photo by Eugene Lasartemay from his sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



Unidentified young men. Photo by Eugene Lasartemay from his sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



"Sailing from Honolulu to San Francisco." Photo by Eugene Lasartemay from his sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



Sailing mates. Photo by Eugene Lasartemay from his sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



Postcard from Eugene Lasartemay's sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939

Statue of Liberty at Sunrise, New York Harbor.



Postcard from Eugene Lasartemay's sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



Postcard from Eugene Lasartemay's sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



Postcard from Eugene Lasartemay's sailing album created while an engineer for the Matson Navigation Company, 1923-1939



Top: Scrapbook image of Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay. "Courting days, 1928" (inscribed on back)

Right: Eugene Lasartemay receiving a wedding gift from the Matson Navigation Company. Clipping from Ruth Lasartemay's scrapbook, created 1950s

The LOG

MAY, 1929



Photo by Harry Abbott

E. P. Mays, Junior Engineer of the "Maui" was presented with a percolator set as a wedding present by the engineers' department

Marie Ada Parks Hackett



Born in Wilkes County, North
Carolina, June 15, 1865
Daughter of Larkin Parks
and Lucy Parks
Wife of Sylvester R. Hackett
Came to Alameda, California
1888.

Religion: Baptist.

Occupation: Homemaker

Mother of Ruth Alice Elena

Hackett Lasartemay and 10 other children.

Relationship: Maternal grandmother

Marie Ada Parks Hackett, Ruth Lasartemay's mother, circa 1890. Page from Ruth Lasartemay's family scrapbook, created 1950s

Wedding photograph of Ruth Alice-Elena Hackett
and Eugene Pascual Lasartemay
Sunday, April 7, 1929, 6:20 p.m.



141 1828 Alameda. Marriage solemnized by Rev. R. Hubbard, Pastor
Beth Eden Baptist Church. Grace Jones West played the wedding music. Eugene Andersen, soloist.
Right - Esthelle Hackett, Ruth Hackett, Eugene Lasartemay, Louis Lasartemay and Gladys Blakeley & cousin.

Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay's wedding photo, Alameda, 1929



Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay with son Valdez Pascual Lasartemay. Studio portrait, circa 1944

1947 Photo



The home of Ruth and
Eugene Lasartemay.
(Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Lasartemay)
1399 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley 2, California

Living room — library annex
Dining room
Kitchen
3 bed rooms

Basement with:

Rumpus room
laundry
office
work shop

Garage with:

Photographic dark room

* Tall redwood tree in rear of house, was planted from small shoot
about 1905

Lasartemays' South Berkeley home. Page from Ruth Lasartemay's family scrapbook, created 1950s

Renew Marriage Vows



Picture of 12th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene P. Lasartemay. Left to right: Mrs. Geneva Parson, Mrs. Deborah Hackett Clinton, Mrs. Ruth Lasartemay, Valdez Lasartemay, Mrs. Eunice Wagner, Mrs. Gladys Pettis. Top row, left to right: Mr. Robert Parson, Mr. Alvin D. Nurse, Mr. Eugene P. Lasartemay, Mr. Jacob Wagner, Mr. William Pettis. (See story of celebration on Page 3, Column 1.)

THE CALIFORNIA VOICE

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1941

Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay's twelfth anniversary celebration, Alameda, 1941



Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay on sidewalk near their Berkeley home, circa 1975

VACATION - - - - - 1950

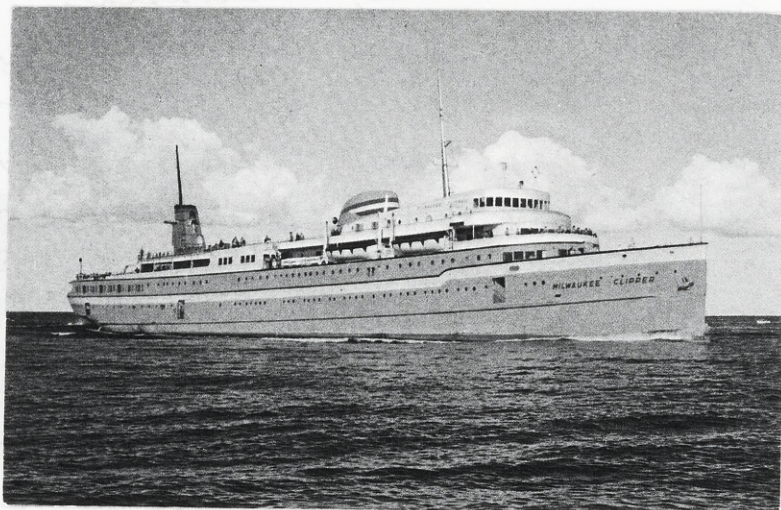
To Pacific Northwest

Pascual, Valdez and I climbed into our dependable sky-blue Hudson '47 and purred over the panoramic highway on our journey to the scenic Pacific Northwest, and ^{to a} stimulating camping trip in the Lassen National Park, California; Crater Lake, Oregon; Mount Ranier National Park and Olympia National Park, both in Washington.

The top rack held our cots and sleeping bags. The car trunk was over-stuffed with tent, bedding, cooking utensils, and plenteous and toothsome canned and packaged food. A well-seasoned, old waffle iron rested predestinely with the provisions.

Page from one of Ruth Lasartemay's many family travel scrapbooks, created 1940-1970s

We complied with the instructions regarding purchase of tickets, ~~and~~ auto-mobile loading procedure and waiting in our "Packard Clipper" until 6:30 p.m., embarking time.



This is the S.S. Milwaukee Clipper, the Great Lakes Luxury Liner across Lake Michigan between Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Muskegon, Michigan. It had ultra-modern interior appointments, excellent food and entertainment.

The length is 361 feet. Its capacity is 900 passengers and 120 automobiles.

Immediately after embarking we sought the ship's cafeteria for dinner. Following dinner we read the Sunday issue of the Milwaukee Sentinel, which we purchased, on the deck until the atmosphere became breezy. We then descended to the main lounge to complete the reading and post card writing.



MOVIE STAR — A woman who always marries her first husband — also her second, third and fourth.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1958

SECOND FRONT PAGE

BR. 6-3900

See! See!

It pays to see Sentinel W. Ads every day! Thousand of bargains . . . reliable services, job opportunities.

Moments

Gleason and I went to the movie room and saw, "Nothing but the Truth."

We explored the entire ship's activities and accommodations.

A large group of teenagers were on a round-top rock and roll party. They had a thunderous time. The downbeats resounded throughout the vessel.



Lansing, Michigan State
Capitol.

Cousin Henry Hackett stated
that his father, Osborne Hackett,
helped to build the structure.
He came to Lansing from
North Carolina in 1876 and
was employed as a workman.

Founded July 2, 1965

AFFILIATION

Association for the Study of Afro-
American Life and History, Inc.
Washington, DC.

Conference of California
Historical Societies, Inc.
Stockton, CA.



5606 San Pablo Avenue
Oakland, California 94608
Phone: (415) 658-3158

Dear Friend:

You are cordially invited to join with us to celebrate the 55th Wedding Anniversary of Ruth and Eugene Lasartemay on Sunday, April 8, 1984, beginning at 4 p.m. at the East Bay Negro Historical Society located at 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland.

As a part of this celebration, the Executive Board of the EBNHS wants to give Ruth and Gene much deserved recognition for their 19 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Society since its beginning in 1965. Their untiring and unselfish sefforts have greatly helped the EBNHS to become a very valuable center for the preservation of black history and culture, especially as it pertains to California and the West.

Come out and join with us in this celebration so that we can show the Lasartemays how much we love them, and how much we appreciate their work for the Society. Bring your family and friends.

On behalf of the EBNHS Executive Board,

Milton A. Combs, Sr. Roy Blackburn Audrey L. Robinson
Bill Thurston

Letter exemplifying the blending of the Lasartemays' personal and professional lives, 1984

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Lasartemay

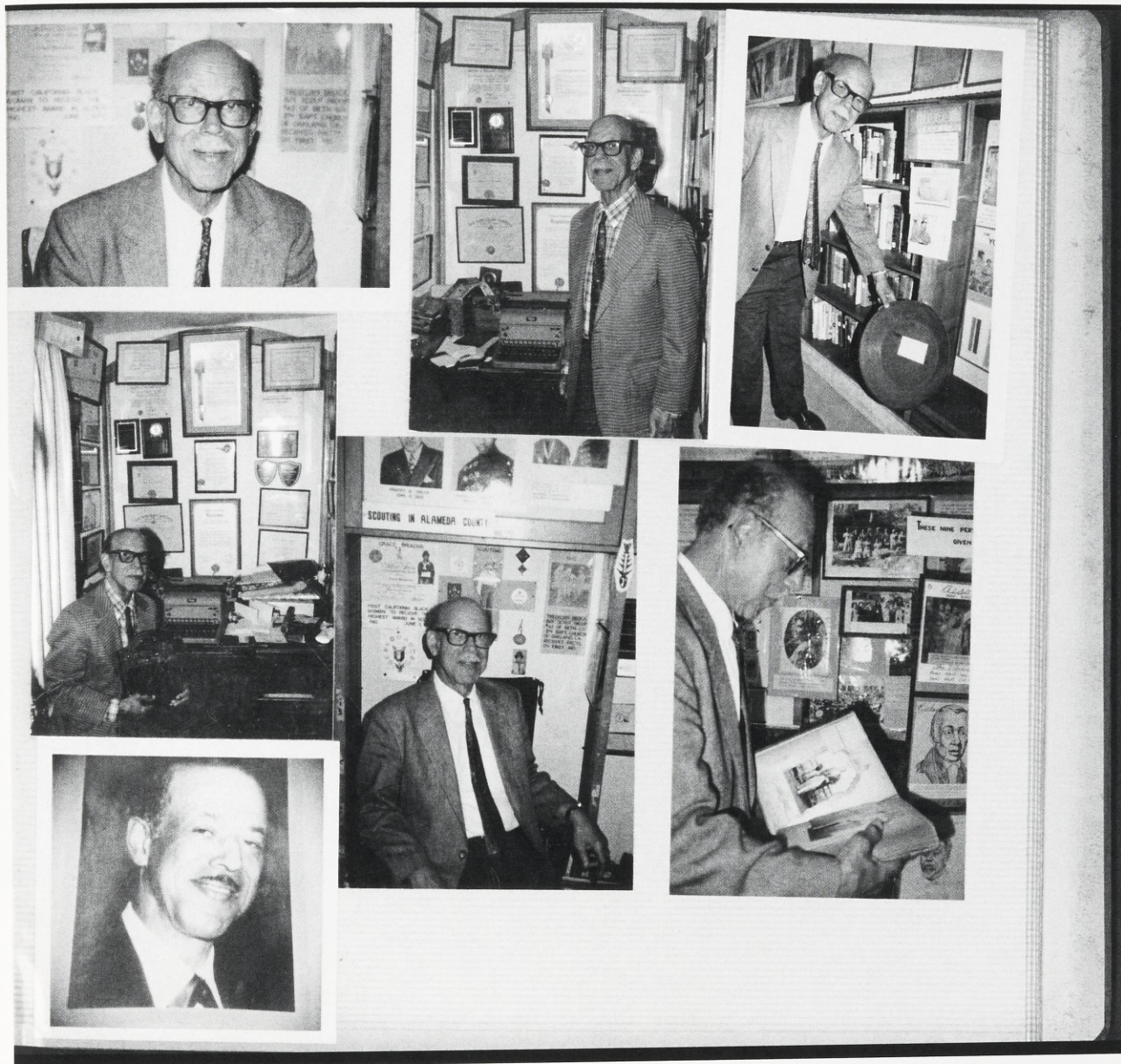
In 1923, Eugene Lasartemay arrived in the Bay Area from Hawaii on a journey to improve himself. He was the first African-American to sail out of the port of San Francisco as a licensed marine engineer. His travels around the world helped him understand and appreciate his rich African culture and history. He saw Black people thriving in Africa and the Caribbean, and in what he then thought were the most inconceivable places for Black people; China, Japan, and Mexico. He gave up the sea after 17 years and worked in the engineering department of Colgate Palmolive Company in Berkeley, California.



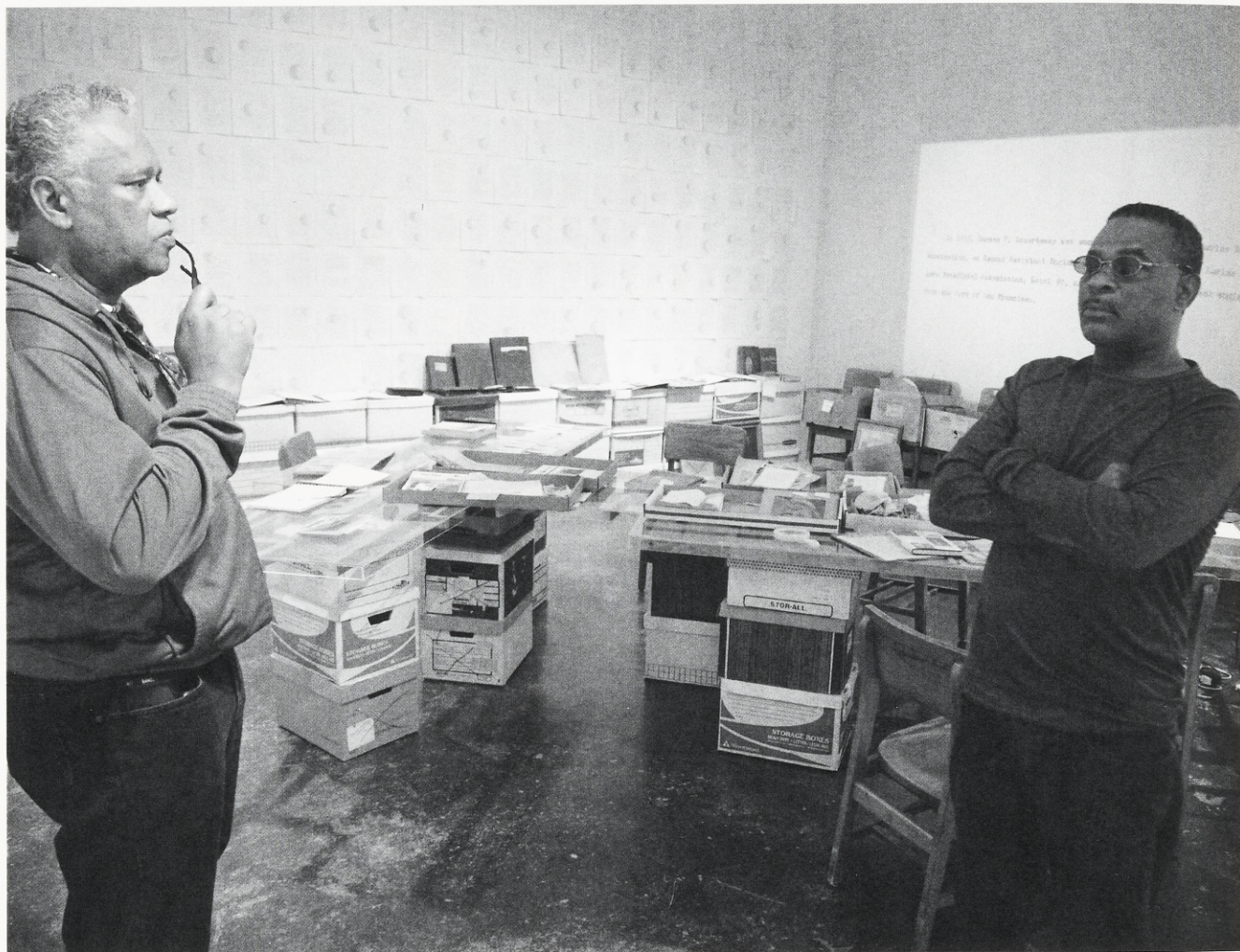
Twenty three years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Lasartemay and five friends decided that something should be done about the lack of available information on Black history and culture. The group started tracing their own family histories and thus became founders of what is now The East Bay Negro Historical Society Museum-Library. The group collected documents, artifacts and other information, books, and newspapers to help reconstruct the history of African Americans in California. On July 20, 1965, one day after his retirement, Mr. Lasartemay became the president of the newly formed East Bay Negro Historical Society, and Mrs. Lasartemay was the first curator.

Today, the Easy Bay Negro Histroical Society Museum-Library is a major historical landmark located in the Golden Gate Library at 5606 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, California. It is the largest repository of African American history in the state. Collections and catalogued files of 1000 books, 2000 photos and prints, original letters, magazines, slide shows, a list of patents, and more than 300 artifacts, carefully and faithfully tell the history of African Americans in California and the West.

For the past 65 years, Mr. and Mrs. Lasartemay have made history in many ways. He being president of the Executive Board of the Society, and Mrs. Lasartemay as first curator, they have dedicated 23 years of their lives keeping the society afloat. He served on the board that developed the "Allensworth", one of the newest parks in California, named after an African American army chaplin who founded one of the state's first African American communities. He is currently writing a book on Jack London's African American surrogate mother. Mr. and Mrs. Lasartemay are truly distinguished pioneer historians in the faithful work they have initiated for the preservation of African American history and culture in California.



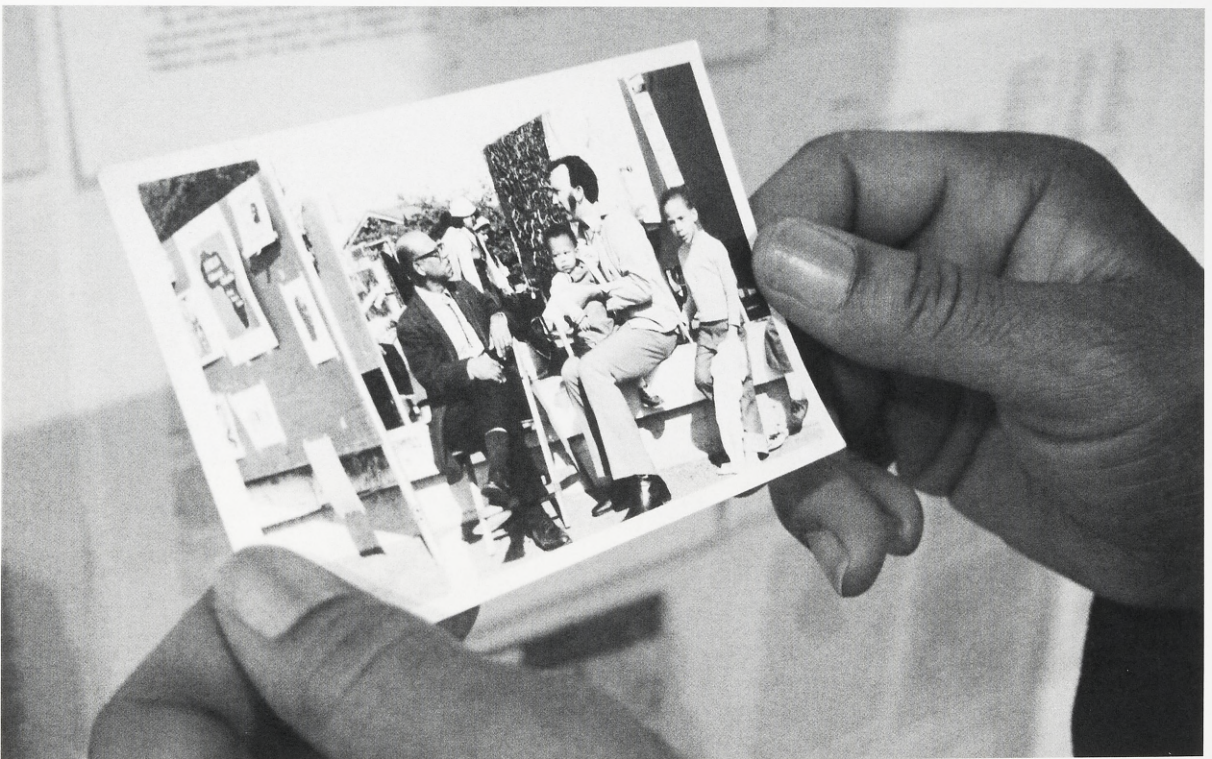
Eugene Lasartemay's photo album documenting East Bay Negro Historical Society activities, 1960s-1980s



The Lasartemays' grandsons, Mark and Valdez, visit *Commons Archive: The Lasartemays*. Interactive research installation created by marksearch (Sue Mark + Bruce Douglas), Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, 2017



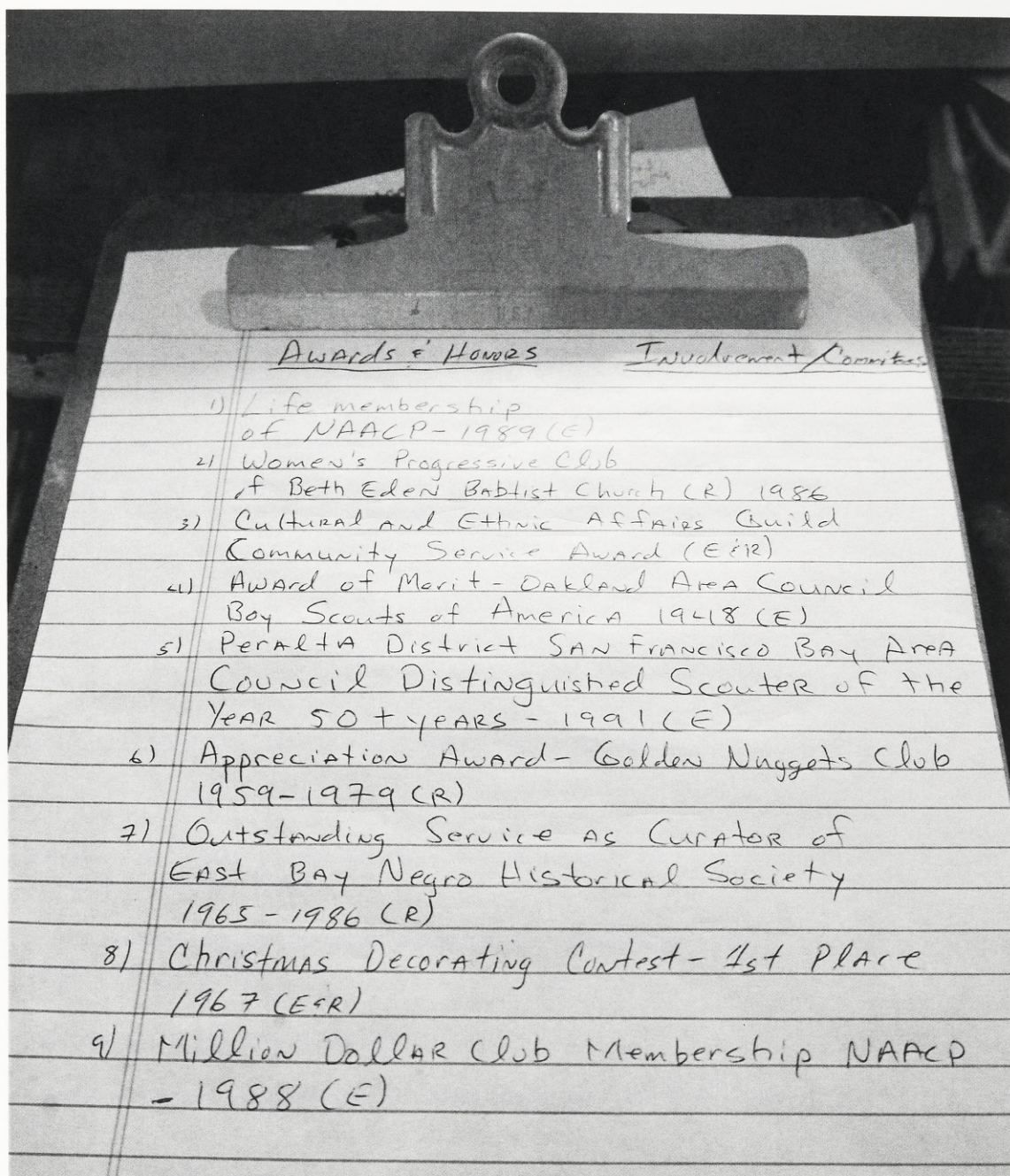
Mark Lasartemay reviewing his grandfather's 1957 photo of the local camera club



Mark Lasartemay reviewing one of his grandfather's photos of the East Bay Negro Historical Society



Mark Lasartemay reviewing one of his grandfather's shipping photo albums.
All images from *Commons Archive: The Lasartemays*, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, 2017



Mark Lasartemay's list of his grandparents' numerous awards and accolades, 2017



Resources

These titles are jumping-off points for further research. The knowledgeable librarians and archivists at Oakland Public Library's Oakland History Room and the African American Museum & Library at Oakland can help you find additional information. These two treasured resources, both located in downtown Oakland, have vast collections of archival primary source materials, including newspaper articles, journals, photos, postcards and scrapbooks.

The Golden Gate Branch Library has a special relationship with the African American Museum & Library at Oakland. In 1982, the East Bay Negro Historical Society, a citizen-led initiative, was invited to establish an African American collection in the Golden Gate Branch, the first library in Oakland to have a predominantly African American focus. Later, the organization changed its name to the Northern California Center for Afro-American History & Life. In 1994, this organization joined with the City of Oakland to create the African American Museum & Library at Oakland (AAMLO). AAMLO reopened in the former Charles S. Greene Library in 2002.

To learn more or make an appointment, visit www.oaklandlibrary.org.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM & LIBRARY AT OAKLAND

Shades of North Oakland photo collection, 1999.

The Official Black Panther Party Historical Tour Guide, Huey Newton Foundation, circa late 2000s.

Visions Toward Tomorrow, Lawrence P. Crouchett, Lonnie Bunch III, Martha Kendall Winnacker, 1989.

GOLDEN GATE BRANCH LIBRARY

Early Emeryville Remembered: Historical Essays, Emeryville Historical Society, 1996.

From Labor to Reward, Martha C. Taylor, 2016.

Temescal Legacies: Narratives of Change from a North Oakland Neighborhood, Jeff Norman, 2006.

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, MAIN BRANCH

Killing the Messenger, Thomas Peele, 2012.

Oakland Tribune archives, <https://newspaperarchive.com/>.
Access at any Oakland Public Library.

Resources Continued

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY'S OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

Emeryville Historical Society quarterly journals, 1990 – present.

Golden Gate Neighborhood clippings file.

Images of America: Emeryville, Emeryville Historical Society, 2005.

WEBSITES

East Bay Yesterday, A podcast series by local historian Liam O'Donoghue, covering many underrecognized local heroes, <https://eastbayyesterday.com/>.

Emeryville Historical Society, the group's online presence includes some articles from their journals, <https://emeryvillehistorical.org/>.

Oakland Heritage Alliance, a non-profit that connects Oakland's past to its present and future through walking tours and a newsletter, <http://oaklandheritage.org/>.

Oakland wiki, A crowd-sourced pool of knowledge started in 2012 about many of Oakland's people, places and events, <https://localwiki.org/oakland/>.

COMMONS ARCHIVE
GOLDEN GATE LIBRARY LOCAL COLLECTION
SERIES 1

A Renovator's History

Blacks in Oakland: 1852 - 1987

Community Profile: Golden Gate Neighborhood

Golden Gate Conversations

Golden Gate Neighborhood Conditions

Golden Gate Walking Tour

I Must Not Forget

On Becoming A Historic Resident

Thanks

This local collection series is born from the wisdom and work of many Oakland local historians, neighbors, librarians, researchers, thinkers, creatives and writers. I am deeply grateful for their generosity in sharing their knowledge and expertise. And to you, readers and researchers, the potency of this collection lives on through your curiosity.

History is never finished: you can continue to reveal the complexity of the story of this place by sharing your thoughts and experiences on the Commons Archive cards.

Design & Layout: Kris Harzinski & Tina Wolfe

Editing & Proofing: Daniela Blei

Commons Archive has been generously supported by the following funders and organizations:



Kala Art Institute's mission is to help artists sustain their creative work over time through its Artist-in-Residence and Fellowship Programs, and to engage the community through exhibitions, public programs, and education.



Kala Art Institute's Print Public program, an arts-integrated approach to urban planning and community activation, was conceived in collaboration with the University of Berkeley's College of Environmental Design and its [IN] CITY program, UCB's Department of City & Regional Planning, and UC Transportation Center, with funding support from the Irvine Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town program.



Your Oakland Public Library empowers all people to explore, connect, and grow.



This project is supported by the Oakland City Council and funded by the City of Oakland's Cultural Funding Program.



This project was made possible in part by a grant from The Creative Work Fund, a program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund that also is supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.



This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of California Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Advancing California through the arts and creativity.

About marksearch

Cultural researcher, literacy educator and artist Sue Mark, a long-time North Oakland neighbor, has a keen interest in over-looked stories. As part of the marksearch team, she designs ways for people to share their stories for empowerment and preservation. With conversation as her primary tool, she develops interactive projects that make space for social memory. Whether pushing a work cart designed as a mobile park or towing a traveling billboard by tandem bike, marksearch engages people to share personal histories that create lasting neighborhood narratives.

Since 2000, Sue has partnered with Bruce Douglas (her husband), an engineer and inventor with a passion for repurposing materials. Their practice as the marksearch team blends their diverse skills and shared life. From neighbor-led walking discussions to sidewalk conversations, commemorative plaques and murals recognizing the collective knowledge of many generations, their projects move beyond aesthetic experience. The marksearch team has implemented interdisciplinary projects with community groups, historians, urban planners and municipalities throughout Oakland and across the globe.

marksearch.org

Of 10 copies, this book is number 10

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LONG-TIME NEIGHBOR Josephine Lee, founder & director of the Golden Gate Branch Library's Summer Jazz Concerts 2015 Photo by Matt Dibble	HISTORIC SITE Oakland Public Library's Golden Gate Branch Library, a Carnegie endowed building constructed in 1918 2017	FARMERS' MARKET Susan Park, food business incubator manager at Phat Beets Food Justice Market & CSA 2014 Photo by Pamela Palma	HISTORIC SITE The Fratellanza Club, a still active neighborhood Italian social club founded in 1932 at 1140 66th Street 2014	NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVISTS Aztec dancers Gerardo Omar Marin & Ernesto Hernandez Olmos at PLACE for Sustainable Living's annual Creating Commons event 2014
HISTORIC SITE St. Columba Church's front lawn with crosses marking annual homicides in Oakland 2014 Photo by Gene Anderson	HISTORIC SITE Father Aidan McAleenan, pastor of St. Columba, a neighborhood church since the 1880s 2015 Photo by Matt Dibble	FARMERS' MARKET Phat Beets Food Justice Market & CSA on Grace Street by Destiny Arts 2014 Photo by Lorah Gross		HISTORIC SITE Klinkner Hall (1886–1942), the East Bay's largest gathering site at San Pablo Avenue & 59th Street circa 1890 Courtesy Oakland Public Library's Oakland History Room
NEIGHBORHOOD SIGN One of several Golden Gate welcome signs, this one at Stanford Avenue & San Pablo Avenue 2014 Photo by Gene Anderson		FARMERS' MARKET Phat Beets Food Justice Market & CSA during Communities' Crossing, a series of neighborhood history events 2015	HISTORIC SITE Archival image of one of many Klinknerville advertisements 1885 Courtesy Emeryville Historical Society	NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVISTS Family photo of Eugene Lasartemay, one of the founders of the East Bay Negro Historical Society 1959

Photo by Gene Anderson	<p>2014</p> <p>Avenue</p> <p>this one at Stanford Avenue & San Pablo</p> <p>One of several Golden Gate welcome signs,</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>events</p> <p>neighborhood history</p> <p>Crossing a series of</p> <p>during Communities'</p> <p>Justice Market & CSA</p> <p>Phat Beets Food</p>	<p>Courtesy Emeryville</p> <p>Historical Society</p>	<p>1999</p> <p>Historical Society</p> <p>of the East Bay Negro</p> <p>one of the founders</p> <p>Eugene Lasaterway,</p> <p>Family photo of</p>	<p>NEIGHBORHOOD</p> <p>ACTIVISTS</p>	Photo by Matt Dibble	<p>2014</p> <p>since the 1880s</p> <p>neighborhood church</p> <p>of St. Columba, a</p> <p>McAleenan, pastor</p> <p>Father Aidan</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>Photo by Lorah Gross</p>	<p>Commons Archive</p> <p>Commons Archive</p> <p>Commons Archive</p> <p>Commons Archive</p> <p>Commons Archive</p> <p>Commons Archive</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>in Oakland</p> <p>annual homicides</p> <p>crosses marking</p> <p>front lawn with</p> <p>St. Columba Church's</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>Photo by Matt Dibble</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>Photo by Pamela Palma</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>Commons event</p> <p>annual Creating</p> <p>Sustainable Living's</p> <p>Olmos at PLACE for</p> <p>& Ernesto Hernandez</p> <p>Gerardo Omar Marin</p> <p>Aztec dancers</p>	<p>NEIGHBORHOOD</p> <p>ACTIVISTS</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>Photo by Matt Dibble</p> <p>Summer Jazz Concerts</p> <p>Branch Library's</p> <p>of the Golden Gate</p> <p>founder & director</p> <p>Josephine Lee,</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>building constructed</p> <p>Carnegie endowed</p> <p>Branch Library, a</p> <p>Library's Golden Gate</p> <p>Oakland Public</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>Market & CSA</p> <p>Beets Food Justice</p> <p>manager at Phat</p> <p>business incubator</p> <p>Susan Park, food</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>1140 66th Street</p> <p>founded in 1932 at</p> <p>Italian social club</p> <p>neighborhood</p> <p>Club, a still active</p> <p>The Fratellanza</p>	<p>HISTORIC SITE</p>
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1947

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Lester
7/12/47
A. C.

PHOTO PREVIOUS PAGE

Family photo of Ruth Lasartemay with mother, one of the founders of the East Bay Negro Historical Society, 1947

PRINTED IN OAKLAND, CA

GOLDEN GATE LIBRARY LOCAL COLLECTION

